

OFAKU asia

December 2014 - January 2015
Php 95

2015
calendar
inside!

📍 DIVIMAP
COSPLAYER'S GUIDE
TO DIVISORIA INSIDE!

HOW TO
FOLLOW A
NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION

:D
Amagi
Brilliant Park



END ISSUE | YEAR END ISSUE | YEAR END ISSUE | YEAR END ISSUE | YEAR END ISSUE | YEAR END ISSUE |

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A refreshing note combining clear citrus and fruity notes creates jovial yet elegant



SECRET STYLE

A modern note incorporating a hint of fruity note creates a cool and stylish image



PERFECT SENSE

A deeply spicy and cool note creates a smart and cultivated image

Heloise Blythe R. Diamante
Editor in Chief

Dianne Michelle E. Gaviño
Editorial Manager

Aira Angelica F. Agacan
Graphic Artist

Aaren Arali DG. Santos
Layout Artist

Pamela Athina R. Tan
Photographer

Alexander P. Ramos
Chelsea Dela Merced
Mascot Design

Dhanliza Cellona
Mikelle Abubo
James Young Bayot
Nathaniel Angeles
Ann Carmel Flores
John Robert Lim
Contributors

PSICOM

Arnel N. Gabriel
President

Rico L. De Jesus
Marketing Manager

Paul Dexter M. Tan
Creative Consultant

Marvin Lee Figueroa
Ramon F. Gernale
Circulation Officer

Nessades M. Ramos
Accounting

Vincent R. Japor
Liaison Officer

Jemielyn P. Doromal
Administrative Officer

It's Christmas break and it's the right time to go out and have fun! And where is the best place to spend your vacation? Amusement parks!! Just like Amagi Brilliant Park!

This is also the right time for a calendar so Otaku Asia has provided O-kun's calendar on page 50-51. YAY!
-GM Kanddy

CONTRIBUTORS QUESTION:

What is your favorite/memorable ride in an amusement park and why?

It was back in 1995 when I first took a ride in "Condor" (now called EKstreme ride) in EK, Laguna. It's as high as a medium-sized tower. I thought the ride was just gonna take us up and down but the coaches we're in were spinning very fast while going up and down. Though I felt really dizzy after the ride, I kind of enjoyed it. It's pretty extreme for a seven-year old.
-Dhanliza Cellona

Log Jam. Not just that, Log Jam 5x consecutively! The ride was broken the whole morning and it was only fixed minutes before closing so there were no more guests around... except for us. So we had the ride for ourselves!! We didn't even go down the log anymore.
-Kent Diamante

There was this octopus ride in the local carnival around early October to December every year. I remember riding it as a child and was nearly traumatized because of how fast the ride was spinning for 5 minutes.
-Nathaniel Angeles

Bumper cars. As a kid, I really felt that the ride has a "competitive" feel in it. It's a multiplayer game of sorts in itself, with you trying your best to bump others' cars.
-John Robert Lim

One memorable ride for me is the ferris wheel in a local carnival. My mom and dad urged me to try that one thus starting my interest in amusement park rides.
-Ren Santos

My favorite ride in the amusement park was the Rio Grande Rapids because it was one of the very few rides that did not get me dizzy.
-Ann Carmel Flores

My most memorable ride would be the Surf Dance. Back in sophomore college, I went with my friends to Star City. The ride was so scary because it's as if you're going to be thrown overboard, so I held on to my friend. I don't like hugging people, but I had to do it, for the entirety of the ride. To make things worse, my friend is a guy.
-James Young Bayot

Rialto. My very first 4D experience way back in my preschool days. I had so much fun that I ended up repeating the same attraction almost the whole day.
-Mikelle Abubo

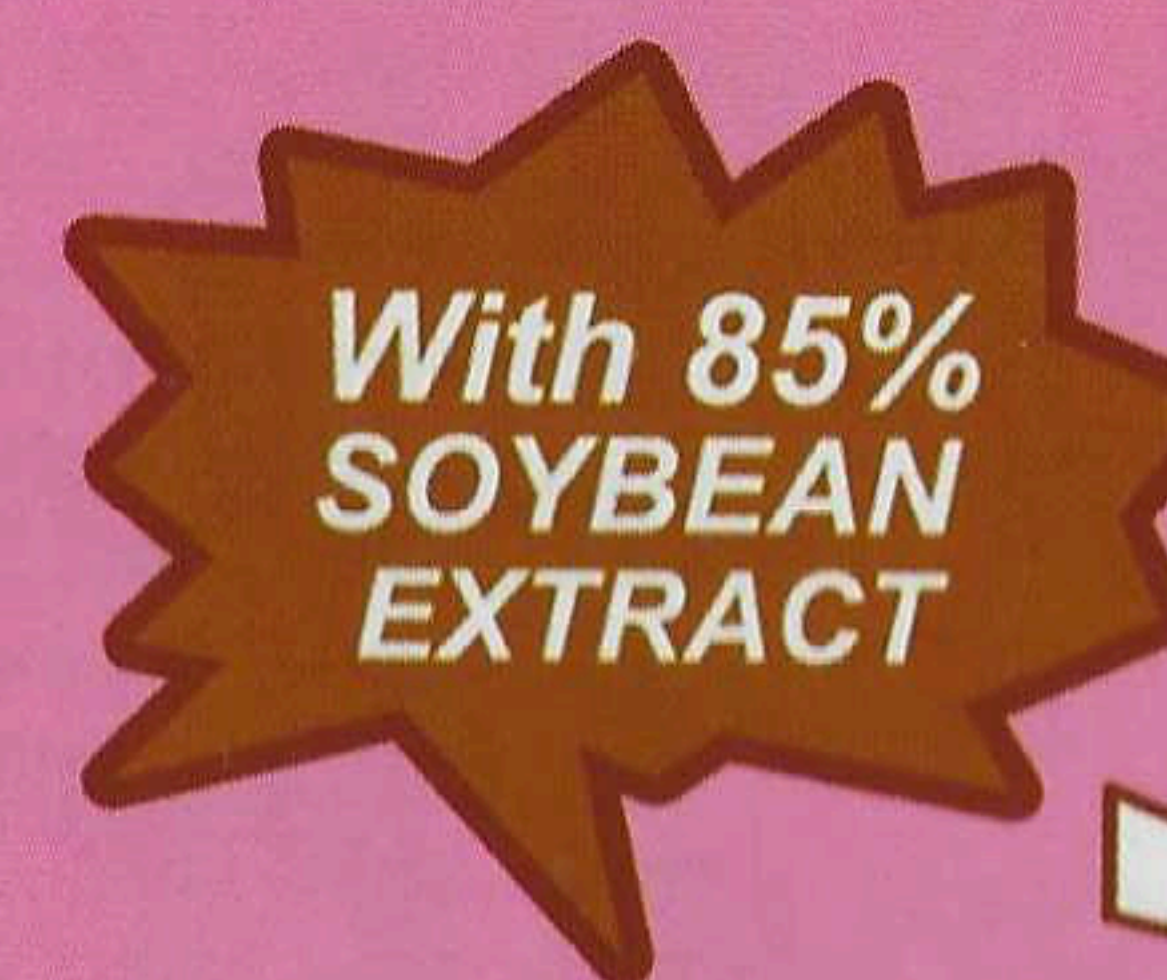
Jungle Splash. Because of that ride, I learned I scream like a guy when I'm really scared.
-Dianne Gaviño

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INBOX



..natanggap ko na (>~<)
Hope you'll cover "Arpeggio Of Blue Steel" too. Thanks Otaku Asia

-Jane Nomio



Ohayou Otaku Asia mag. staff~! (^)/
1st time ko pa talagang nakabili ng mag. niyo~ gomen gomen~ anyway I love it and Im looking forward for another issue~

Greet ko pala mga fellow otakus ko na sina Anna, Granz, Andres, Alfonso, Shaira, Mary Lynn, Shasha-neechn, Meme-neechn, Aaron, Kobe and Kenken~

Here is my drawing of Kaito Shion from Vocaloid~ Hope you like it~!!!
God bless to your mag.~ Gambatte ne~!
FIGHTING~!

-Angel Rose Oyo-a



Kon kon konnichiwa Otaku Asia...me and my kawaii imouto-chan loves your magazine...we just bought your mag last week the mekaku city actors...i love it cause you feature KPP.. (my nee-chan) (jk)...hope you can feature BABYMETAL, YUI YOSHIOKA, AOI EIR, TEGOMASS, HARUNA LUNA, TOMATSU HARUKA... (stops)... hope you can feature at least one or two...ONEGAISHIMASU....and also can you feature SAO 2(for my imouto, she loves SAO, GGO)..and also can you feature..Ao Haru Ride...?...onegai.. pwesss... I love Kou Mabuchi..^^

Arigatou...Otaku Asia... O\\\\\\O....
I want to greet my otafriends in my school...Lysha (Yuuki Kuran), Mary Ann (Kazumi Kiryuu), Christel (Yuno Gasai), Mia (Asuna Yuuki), Joseph Reno, Jezrel, and my two sensei who loves anime too... (feeling proud) and all my classmates, schoolmates, and crushes >////<....domo arigatou gozaimasu..Otaku Asia....me and my friends will zutto daisuki nee...love lots...smile..its free...
Otaku Asia Mag will always live in our kokoro....
(Ps..cant wait for the next issue..)

-Earthmay-



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Joshua Bornaes



Dale Caracho



Nick Senoc



Hello po :) I saw and read most of your magazines since my sister is the one collecting it :) and what took my attention was the fan art drawings that I saw either the back or the front page. And I wanted to upload some of my drawings. But this is my first time doing it T.T and I don't know what to do. (It kills me!) but getting all the courage that I have inside...

I'll try to upload one of my drawings which is Teito Klein from 07 ghost. I hoped you liked it. Keep up the good work Otaku Asia!!!

-Sarah de Castro

Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout?
Fanart to showoff?
We would love to hear from you!

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Tokyo Bubble Tea is a great Japanese place to have your lunch, light snack meals, dinner or even when you come with your sesame street pajamas to have your midnight snacks. It is a great place to hangout with your friends and family where our ambiance encourages fun and laughter from menu, service and comfy place all year round!

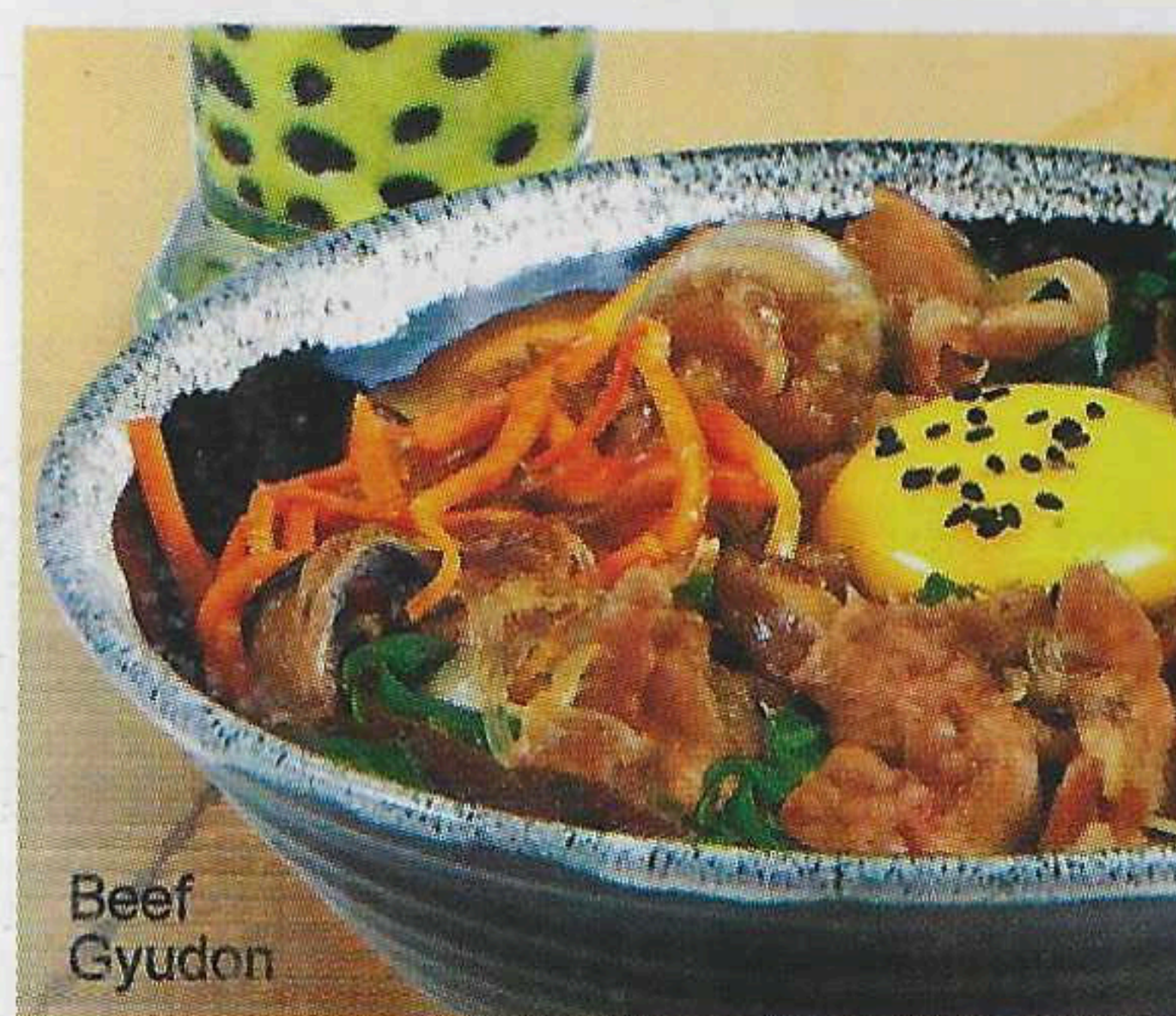


Our Story

Tokyo Bubble Tea restaurant is a Philippine homegrown concept founded and managed by McWilson Group of Restaurants. It all started year 2007 when McWilson Group of Restaurants owners wished to introduce bubble milk tea drinks in Manila, along with Japanese style ambiance and food. The name bubble tea is derived from the drink popularized around Asia and we used it as our brand name to represent us that we specialize in brewing premium milk tea served with the best bubbles.

Our Product

We brew our tea everyday to give you the top-quality, fresh, healthy and all natural Tea drinks served with fun soft-chewy bubbles, Tokyo style. In addition, we only offer good, healthy and freshly-cooked food to make sure you get the best out of your favorite Japanese cuisine.



Due to overwhelming response of our customers, Bubble Tea is planning to expand its business and open more outlets in and outside Metro Manila.

Currently, Bubble Tea has branches in SM Megamall & SM North EDSA-The Block, which started 2007, and in Tomas Morato, Q.C. & Wilson, Greenhills, which started 2010, at The Fort, which started 2011 and now open at Westgate in Alabang, Harborpoint in Subic, Robinsons Place in Bacolod and Marquee Mall in Pampanga.



cosplanner

COSPLANNER IS THE APP COSPLAYERS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.

Tagged as "the app for cosplayers and cosmakers", CosPlanner is a smart phone application for both iOS and Android.

Manage your cosplays, follow your progress percentage, save reference images, know the total cost and time invested including the time lapsed making your project.

When you finish a cosplay, you can now log the events when you will wear it, places, photoshoots, achievements and your best pictures.

Released by Cato Kusanagi only this October, this app is not getting the fanfare it deserves. As a cosplayer, I've written down my cosplans but the list would always get misplaced. I've also tried to-do list apps but they don't have reference images. This. THIS APP IS THE ONE FOR US.

People from tumblr have already started raving about the app and have started using it. We saw it first when cosplayer Maverick Villenguez uploaded a screenshot of his unfinished cosplans in his Facebook page (thank you, Max). I just had to search for the app at 2 am in the morning. It was worth it.

Let us enumerate the goodness it brings:

PROS:

- List of cosplan:s
- Set the date when you start working on it
- List down the *elements* or the things you need to buy or make
- Break down the cost and time consumed for each element
- Add reference images
- Add best photos, achievements, events
- Add photoshoot details (even photographer name!)

CONS:

- Free app means limits. Examples of this is the number of reference pictures (5) and elements (20). Extending the limits cost 43.3Php

- Advertisements at the bottom. It would cost 86.7Php to take them out for good.

As you can see, the pros outweigh the cons and therefore you must have this app now. If you're not a cosplayer at least tell your cosplayer friends about this to spare them the hassle.

We at OA don't do thing half-way so we promise to write a more extensive review of this application along with a tutorial on how to use it properly. In the meantime, enjoy the app and enjoy cosplaying!

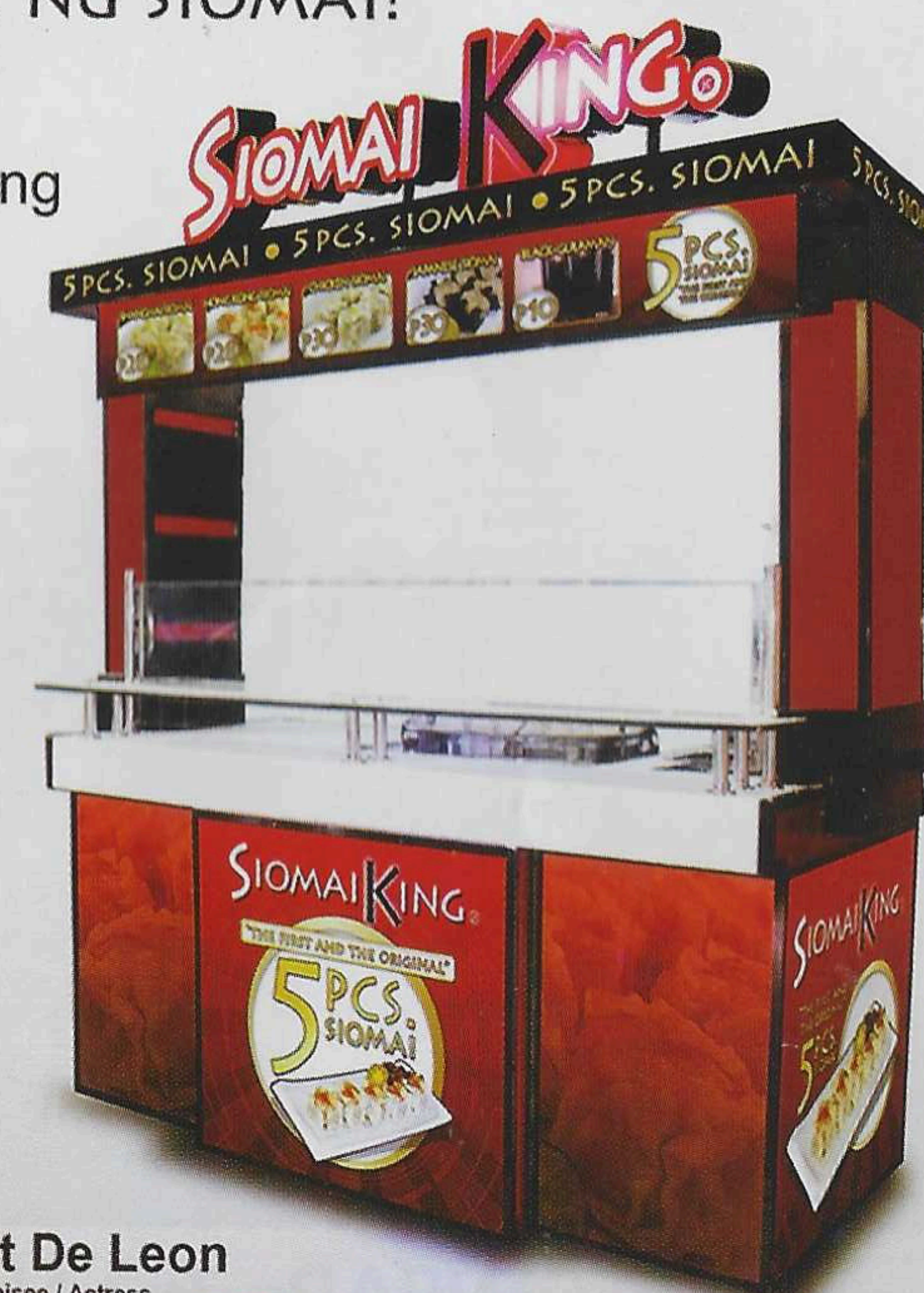
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NEWS

by: Yani & kandy



AXENT WEAR: The New Generation of Headphones

Tired of the old and same style headphones? Recently, Axent Wear has released a unique design and new functionality of headphones that can be bought for \$115 and everyone in the world can buy it!~

Axent Wear, Inc. is a business co-founded by UC Berkeley graduates Wenqing Yan and Victoria Hu.

They've created the ultimate headphone: one with built-in speakers! With the cat ear design, the headphone won the internet over.

With different colored LED lights, cat ears, speakers and over-the-ears cushion, this is truly consumer-made headphone. The headphones that are available in stores are usually designed by people who think they know what people need. Axent Wear actually take comments and suggestions into reality.

I mean, cat ears? Who doesn't want that?!

Full specs:

- 20Hz - 20KHz Frequency response
- 40 mm driver
- 32 ohm Impedance
- 6 hour battery life
- USB charging and 3.5 mm Jack included
- 6.6ft detachable cable
- Over-ear-cushioning
- Built in volume control plus forward and backward buttons included
- Inline mic included
- On and off LED light button
- Approximately 280-300 grams in weight

After the crowdfunding campaign, a detachable gaming boom mic is also being made.

Follow the cat's trail on Axent Wear's official Facebook page: [facebook.com/AxentWear](https://www.facebook.com/AxentWear) and their website: www.axentwear.com.

TAMA CON: Your next convention destination

De La Salle University's Japanese Studies organization, Nihon Kenyuu Kai announces the 3rd installment of Tamashii Convention, it's Japanese Culture Convention.

DLSU-NKK has hosted several Japanese Culture-themed conventions since 2011, these being referred to as "TamaCon". In 2015, the organizers decided to name TamaCon as **Tamashii Convention 2015: Igniting the Japanese Spirit** - bringing focus on the expression of the spirit of Japan.

Tamashii Convention 2015, along with it's new set of organizers, are planning on setting the ambiance of a Japanese Summer Cultural Festival - trying to bring out the spirit of how festivals are being done in Japan with a slight mix of Japan's ever popular pop culture. TamaCon 2015 will also be featuring it's very own cafe, wherein guests will be able to experience the aesthetics of being in a cultural

Japanese setting while enjoying a cup of tea.

Tamashii Convention 2015 is set on March 28, at Function Room 1 & Meeting Hall 2 and 3 in SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex.

Nihon Kenyuu Kai is a professional organization in De La Salle University for Japanese Studies students, and the students who are interested in Japan and it's rich culture. The organization provides various activities for it's members to enrich their passion and knowledge about Japan.

Nihon Kenyuu Kai FB:
[facebook.com/DLSUNKK](https://www.facebook.com/DLSUNKK)

Tamashii Convention FB:

Use the hashtag **#tamacon** when posting about the event!

Otaku Asia is official media partner of Tamashii Convention 2015





OTAKUGOODIES

Naruga X Hunter

Series: Monster Hunter
Product: Pre-painted figure
Height: 27.00 cm Weight: 1.65 kg

The Naruga armor from Monster Hunter is made from the Nargacuga monster. This particular armor is the Monster Hunter Freedom Unite Gunner Armor. The figure however, does not include the bowgun.

The design from the actual art and the figure has some obvious changes such as the hair and face mask. The fabric also became white. However, we think that this is because E2046 is going for the kawaii-badass neko character rather than the rouge dirty design that the game has.

We notice that the figure is not smiling and is actually looking down. The scales of her armor looks very dangerous and well sculpted. The stitches in her pants are also very visible and well painted. We don't play Monster Hunter but getting this figure could change that.



4/5 Sculpting – The small parts are very detailed but we wonder if the net in her chest area should be designed like that. It looks like it's already her skin.

5/5 Paint – OMG those scales really do look like scales of the Nargacuga.

4/5 Packaging – The box has a dinosaur rather than the actual art from Monster Hunter. Like what?

5/5 Value – The pre-order price for this is already down by 25%!



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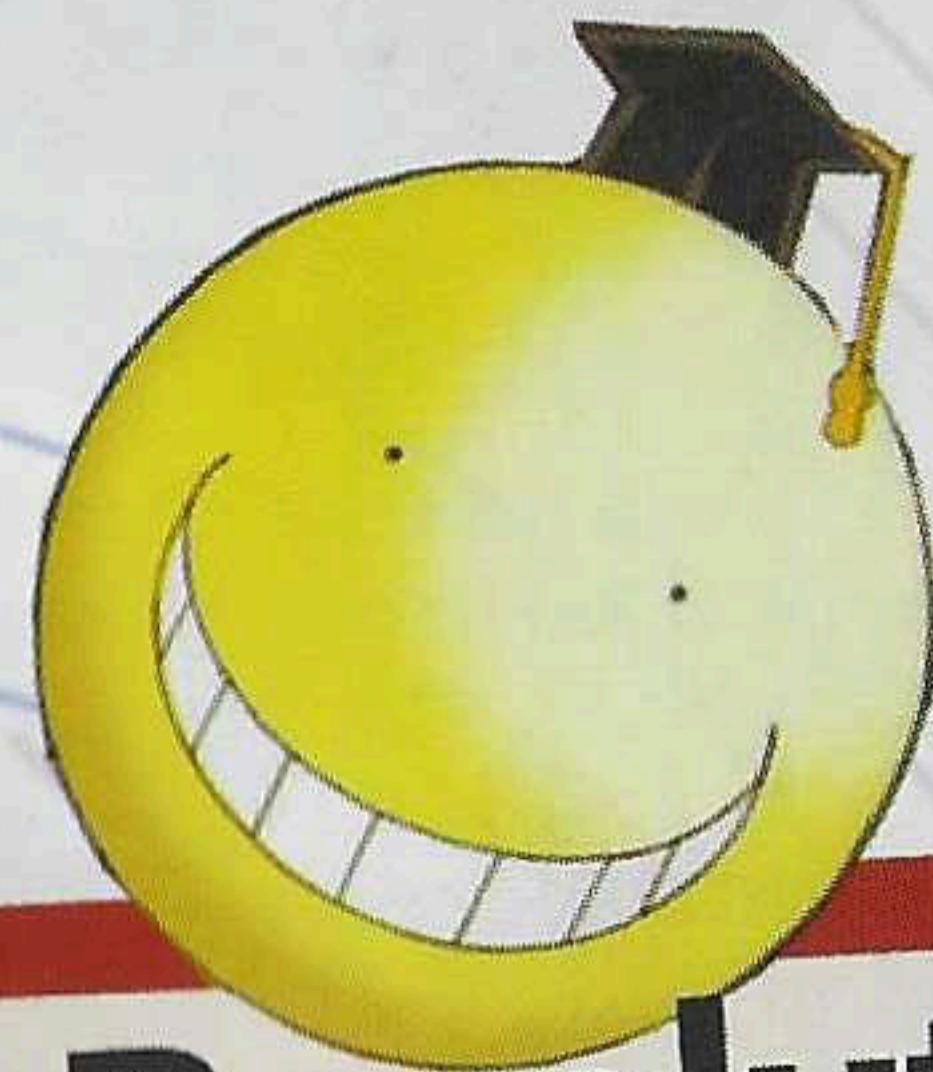
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How to Follow a New Year's Resolution

The end of the year is almost near. Some of you are looking forward to presents, a vacation from school or work and quality time with your family and friends. One of the biggest trends that is making a **New Year's resolution**, a list of things that we would want to achieve or change this coming year.

There are some that are successful in accomplishing this but there are those who are having difficulty or to the point that their promised resolution is forgotten.



Otafans, if you are willing to do your own list for your New Year's Resolution, we are willing to help you out through these tips:

What You Need:

- ☐ A pen /pencil/ any writing material you prefer
- ☐ A paper/notebook that you might bring or remind you everyday

Optional:

- ☐ A quiet space to think or with a background music of your choice to help you think

STEPS

1. List

After reflecting on what you need to achieve or to change by next year, **write them all down on your notebook**. Try to separate your short term and long term goals (for example for short term: ace every exam by the resume of classes; for long term: be able to earn a certain amount before Christmas next year). You can also organize your goals depending on their priority and urgency if you wish. Cancel out goals that you may not be able to accomplish or place them in another category.

2. Rewrite

Now you have a list of the goals you want to accomplish. **Rewrite them and hang them somewhere that you'll see every day** you wake up (for example: making a big to-do list and hang them next to your ID's or pin them on your corkboard where you can see them while you study or do projects). Maybe place them in the front page of your organizer or a notebook that you'll always check when you get home.



Goal

...I will avenge my clan

3. Read Often

After placing your list where you can see them every day, be sure to **read them to be reminded of the goals that you need to accomplish**. As stated earlier, one of the reasons why a resolution is not accomplished is because people tend to forget it so try to remind yourself every time that you can.

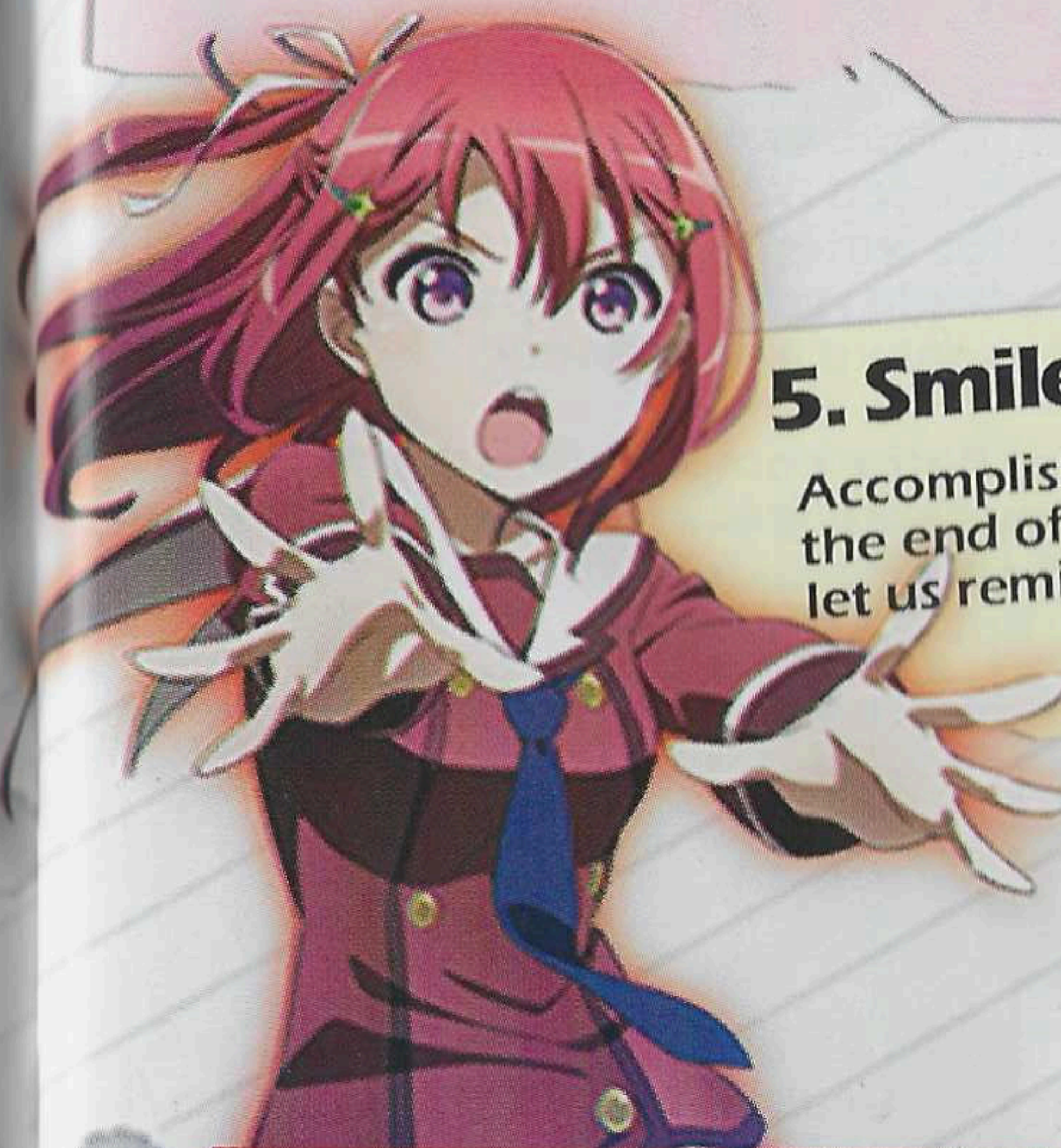
4. Reward

Reward yourself with something small whenever you accomplish a goal that you listed. A reward can be a piece of chocolate, a small item that you want to buy or any small treat you can afford. Once you accomplished your top resolution or you accomplished everything in your list by the end of the year, that's where you get yourself the biggest treat you could possibly have. Be sure to mark your list with the things you accomplished along the way.



5. Smile and have fun!

Accomplishing these goals within the year or by the end of the year got some pressure on you but let us remind you to have fun on the way!



Last but not the least; We hope you are very determined with all the things you listed in your resolution. We hope that these simple tips help you out and we bid you goodluck with your New Year's resolution quest!



Ashiyu Everywhere~!

by: lizac 3.0

It's getting chilly nowadays, isn't it? In a tropical country like the Philippines, we don't really need to do extreme activities in cold days just to warm up. Some of us would already be satisfied with drinking a cup of hot coffee or putting on a jacket early in the morning. However, in Japan where winter gets really awful at any time of the day, it is nearly mandatory to do warming up activities.

So how do the Japanese usually start?



Imagine doing something from scratch for the first time. We usually start from the bottom, right?

The Japanese are famous for making kotatsu, a table covered with quilts which has a heater underneath. When your feet and legs are heated under the kotatsu, everything seems to go well with you in winter while having a hot bowl of ramen, nabe, or oden. But other than kotatsu, there is another way to feel the heat in winter starting from the feet and legs, too.

The Japanese have yet again produced another unique way to heat up in winter through "**Ashiyu**" or "**foot bath**". It is literally translated from the Japanese words "**ashi**" which means foot, and "**yu**" which means hot water. Ashiyu is a public bath where people are fully clothed! But you will find people here whose pants are rolled up to their knees while their feet are soaked in hot water.

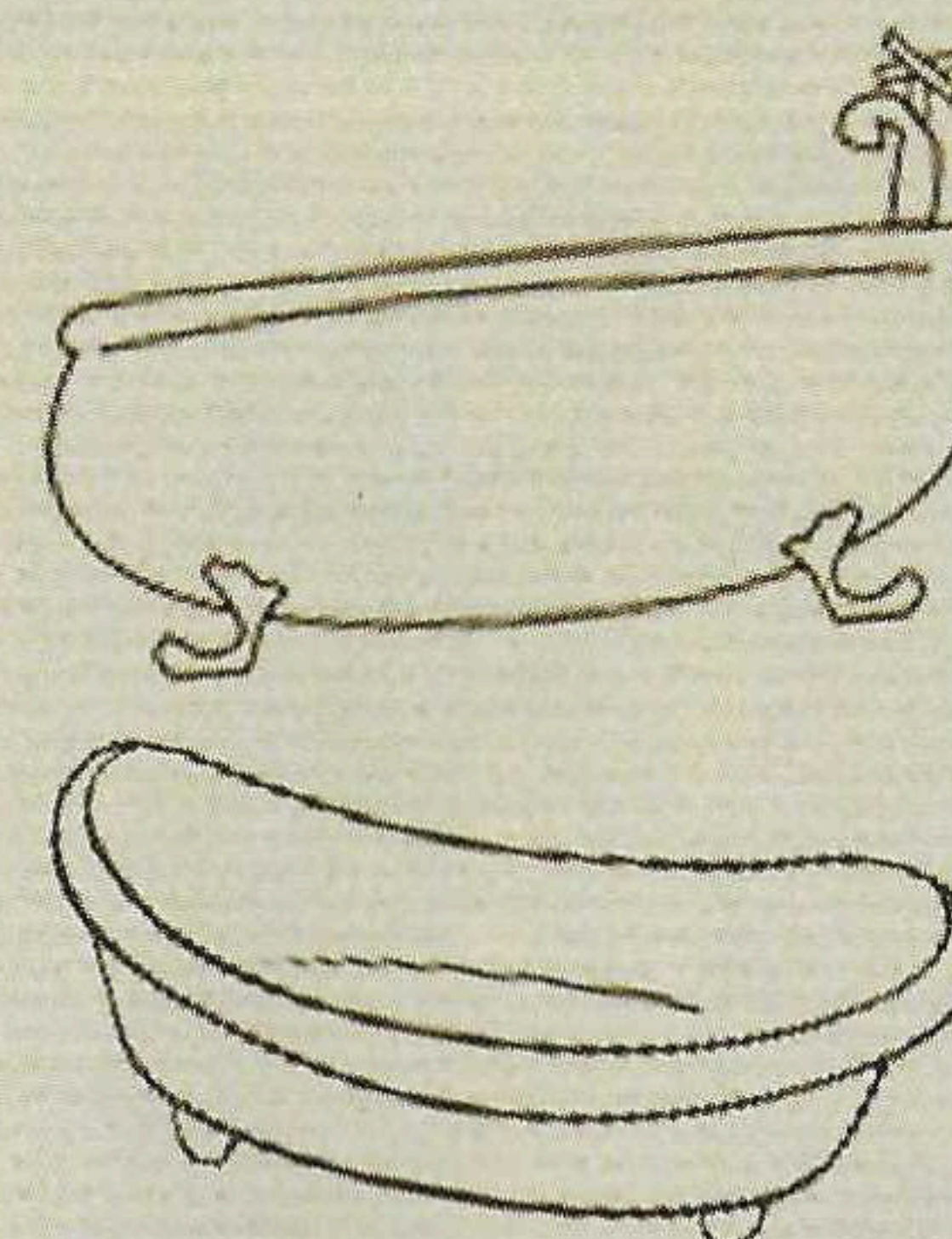
In Ashiyu, you don't have to take a hot shower or bathe completely in warm water just to warm the whole body. Simply immersing your bare feet in hot water is the best way to fight the cold. This probably sounds just like a normal foot spa done with a pail of warm water and rose petals in it, but that's not the gist!



Ashiyu is not just in onsen or public baths, but it is found literally everywhere. They can be found in parks, recreational areas, and railway stations. The best thing is, customers are not charged for using Ashiyu. And even if they do, it's at a very affordable price and is considered a donation to save money for maintaining foot baths. Some Ashiyu establishments offer "**Teyu**" or "**hand bath**" as well.

In fact, the **Shinkansen** or Bullet Train, specifically **JR East** has recently launched its new Shinkansen coaches with Ashiyu. Their objective is to let the passengers experience foot baths while traveling to Yamagata Prefecture, the hot springs capital of Japan.

How do we do a Filipino-style Ashiyu?



If you have a bath tub at home, you can fill it with hot or lukewarm water. Sit on the edge of the tub and soak your feet into the water. If it seems inconvenient, you may also get a high-rise chair where you can comfortably sit while having your feet immersed in the bath tub.

But if you don't have a bath tub at home, you may improvise by getting a huge basin with warm water, then willfully soak your feet! To have a better feel of it, you may wear "**Dotera**" or padded kimono. Don't forget to roll your pants up to your knees! You may offer this service to your family or friends as an exclusive Christmas gift.



Although it's not that cold here in the Philippines compared to Japan's everyday weather, some warming up activities are really worth a try this season.

After all, no one is supposed to catch a cold in the party months!



OTAKUGOODIES

Hatsune Miku Alice Version



Series: Vocaloid
Product: Pre-painted Figure
Height: 31.00 cm
Weight: 2.37 kg
Scale: 1/5.5
Price: US\$ 315.99

Gathering presents Hatsune Miku Alice Version! Join Miku and her new found friends; the cat, the rabbit and frog on the other world as she find her way out there!

The dress looks really good on Miku! So many frills and ruffles that makes her more look cute and a loli.

5/5 Sculpting - The details at the back, especially on the pigtail is really great and also the stand, especially the grass part has an Alice in Wonderland feel on it and it even has a mushroom and the animals that Alice has met.

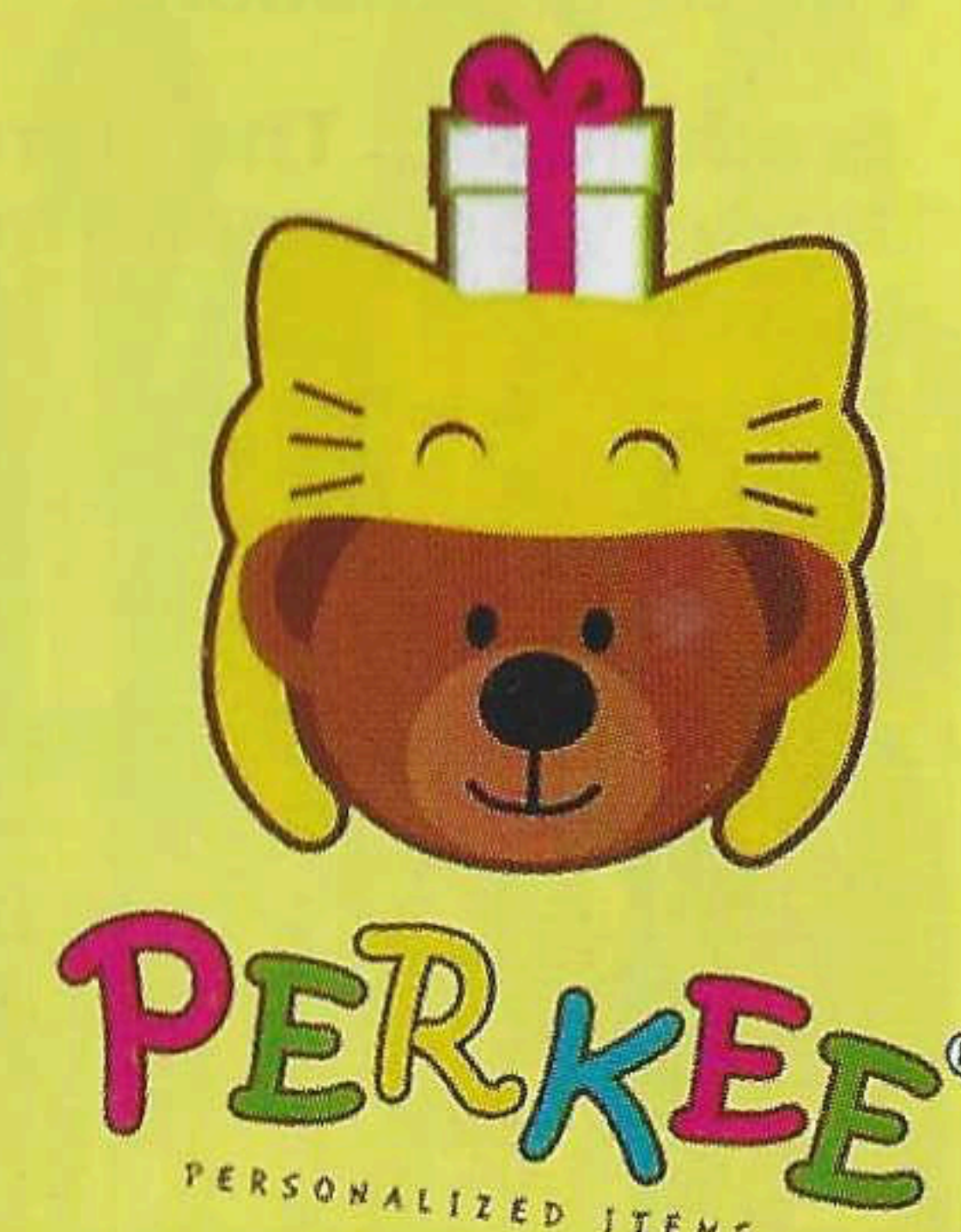
5/5 Paint - The translucent effect of the hair on the twintail part is really awesome that makes the figure glow.

5/5 Packaging - Worrying that the Twintail might get damaged or broken? No worries because it is disassembled and comes with a packaging with foams that prevents the 12 figure parts from getting damaged.

5/5 Value - It's on sale! You'll get 20% off and a perfect gift for Vocaloid fans and lovers out there.



0935 166 5849
perkee2011@gmail.com





モーニング娘。'14

Morning Musume '14

Cute face, dancer, singer. These are some of the qualities of an idol that fans look for. However, not every idol have these quantities but still, they stand out on what they have and what they can do.

Morning Musume '14 (pronounced Morning Musume one four) is a Japanese idol group under the Hello Project wing and currently, is also one of the girl idol groups that has many hit singles and albums.

The group was established in the year 1997, with only 5 members. They held auditions every year for new members due to 'graduations'.

Graduation: The term being used in Japan whenever a member of a group leaves.

The group's highest selling single is LOVE Machine with 1,646,630 copies sold, released in the year 1999 and their lowest selling single is Pyocopyoco Ultra with 34,050 copies sold released last January 2012.

Morning Musume '14 is the 9th best selling girl group in the world.

They have also been doing concerts and events outside Japan; in Asia, Europe and America.

Their producer, Tsunku is responsible for composing their songs, designing the costumes that will be used in each single, CD designs, their make-up and more rather than their own manager.



Current Members:

Sixth Generation
Michishige Sayumi - Leader

Ninth Generation
Fukumura Mizuki
Ikuta Erina
Sayashi Riho
Suzuki Kanon

Tenth Generation
Ikubo Haruna
Ishida Ayumi
Sato Masaki
Kudo Haruka

Eleventh Generation
Oda Sakura

Twelfth Generation
Ogata Haruna
Nonaka Miki
Makino Maria
Haga Akane

Aside from releasing singles, they are also known for releasing DVD's throughout Japan. They have also done collaboration songs and singles with other Hello Project girl groups like C-ute, Berryz Koubou and S/mileage. They also have been included in some musicals, radio shows, movies and many more.



Great dance choreography and voice: that's Morning Musume '14 is known for. You can see in their Music Video singles the synchronicity of every member with the song and the power of their voices. They one performed on surprise with stage appearance and only in their pajamas!



They have released their 57th and latest triple A side single entitled "TIKI BUN / Shabadaba Doo~ / Mikaeri Bijin" last October 15, 2014. Two of the songs from their latest single is dedicated to their leader Michishige Sayumi whom will graduate on November 26 from Morning Musume and Hello Project! and will take a break from the entertainment industry.

Changes and graduations are inevitable. A new chapter of Morning Musume awaits where Sayumi wouldn't be present and the twelfth generation members will be included. Let us continue to support them with their upcoming singles and projects!

Mikaeri Bijin

minna anata ga akogare
de shita
nani mo shiranai imouto ni
kotobazukai ya
tachifurumai wo
itsumo oshiete kureta hito
kono yo wa ukiyoe
yume ka maboroshi
rin to tatazumu
senpai deshita

sena de sayonara
mikaeri bijin
aa aa mottainai yo
ii onna

koi ni tokimeku
toshigoro dakedo
ase to namida de
kagayake to
kagami aite ni mutai no
keiko
issei ichidai ade sugata

kono yo wa ukiyoe
yume ka maboroshi
senryou yakusha no
senpai deshita

iki ni sayonara
mikaeri bijin
aa aa mottainai yo
ii onna

kono yo wa ukiyoe
yume ka maboroshi
rin to tatazumu
senpai deshita

sena de sayonara
mikaeri bijin
aa aa mottainai yo
ii onna





GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY



During ToyCon2014, Otaku Asia photographed two familiar cosplayers who stood out among the rest. They were **Frederick Arcaron Viñas** and **Daphne Cortes**, couples who cosplay.

We first saw them in Komikon as local characters, Dante and Mina of the komik, Pasig. So we interviewed them.

"Dante & Mina"
JDV Photography



Any stage names or cosplay names?

Frederick Arcaron Vinas and Daphne Cortes:

It's actually a funny coincidence that we're both named after Fred and Daphne of Scooby Doo, that's why people tend to refer to us simply as "Fred & Daphne".

Who chooses the characters to cosplay?

Fred & Daphne: We share the same interest when it comes to the shows we watch, games we play, and books we read. So it's easy for us to decide who we want to do since sharing our geeky-side to each other has made us part of each other's world.

When and why did you start cosplaying?

Fred - Honestly I don't remember since I've been going to conventions for a long time now mainly because of the toys (since I'm a huge toy-collector!) My geeky friends slowly convinced me to cosplay, until I gave in around 2009 when I wore a SWAT uniform in one of those conventions I can no longer recall.

Daphne - I've always wanted to cosplay as my favorite characters but I just didn't have the chance due to studies. But one day a close friend of mine recruited me in their group 'Tranzor Go!' as Erika of Daimos. we competed at the grand stage of Toei's 25th Anniversary last November 2011 and won the silver prize, then from that moment I was hooked!

Of all your characters, which one was the easiest? hardest?

Fred - The easiest character I've cosplayed has got to be Star-Lord of Guardians of the Galaxy. why? Because my face doesn't need to put much effort into portraying a character since the mask basically does all the work for me. The hardest cosplay that I've done is probably Jon Snow of Game of Thrones because of the fur cape. Jon Snow's costume isn't made for tropical weather, that's why when I portray him I feel like I'm in a sauna.

Daphne - Hmmmnnnn.... For me the easiest character I've cosplayed was Ygritte of Game of Thrones since she's a Wildling. I don't need to worry about how I look to be able to portray her and I'm not sensitive to the temperature even with the fur coat. On the other hand, the hardest and most challenging character I've done was Gamora of Guardians of the Galaxy since the preparation for the body paint, face make-up and wearing of costume takes me around 3 hours.

How long have you been cosplaying as a pair?

Fred & Daphne: We were actually both part of that group 'Tranzor Go!', that was the first time we met and worked together. We became a couple on December 2011 at which point we decided to cosplay as a couple focusing on characters who are couples or at least a love-interest of each other. And now we've been cosplaying for more than 2 years.

Do you make your own costumes and props?

Fred & Daphne: - We actually do our own costume and props sometimes like Star-Lord's blasters, Ada Wong's Crossbow, and some additional details to make the costume more accurate. We also have our friends commission some work that we think they can do better like sewing since we don't know how to. :|

When not cosplaying or making costumes, what do you do?

Fred & Daphne: - Cosplay for us is a hobby that we really love doing but we both have our regular day-jobs that we need to prioritize.

Fred: - I work as a Business Analyst for one of the biggest financial firms of the US. My real passion is actually toy-collecting, I've been collecting since I was a child. My toys are already overflowing that I've reached the point of having the need to sell some of them, that's why I now have a small toy-selling business.

Daphne: - Besides cosplaying, I am a Clinical Pharmacist in one of the world's best hospital here in the Philippines, a commercial model that has appeared in various advertisements and a business woman with my small t-shirt printing service.

Fred & Daphne: - Other than that, we spend our free-time doing the stuff we love together. Like going on adventures, watching movies at the cinema, hanging-out, bonding.

How do you balance your time with work and cosplay?

Fred & Daphne: - We set our priorities. We don't force things, if we can't attend an event because of work or family, we don't. We always plan ahead of time by plotting events in our calendar. That way, we can prepare for everything that we need to.

What are the things that you've gained or learned through cosplaying?

Fred & Daphne: - Through cosplaying we've gained a lot of friends and self-confidence. We learned a lot when it comes to crafting and being very resourceful as well.



Images by flickr.com/photos/leggiephotography/

Star-Lord and Gamora with Steve Gan the co-creator of Star-Lord Photo taken by Ivan Guerrero



Daphne: - First of all, we'd like to tell everyone to never give-up when it comes to cosplaying. Be true to who you are and who you want to portray.

Fred: - We would also like to thank everyone who has shown their appreciation and support to everything that we've done.

Don't give in to peer-pressure or doing characters who you have no idea of. Cosplay characters that you know by heart, love, and most comfortable with so that cosplaying will always be a pleasant experience for you and everyone.

We do this for the passion that is cosplaying and for the love of the characters we admire and portray.

We hope that you guys would continue to watch out for our cosplays. Follow us by liking our page *Fred & Daphne!*



All photos are owned by their respective owners. Photographers were informed in using their photos in this magazine.

Thank you to Fred and Daphne.



Cosplayers: Frederick Alarcon Viñas and Daphne Cortes
Photographer: Rey Christian Sandel Correa
Venue: Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center
facebook.com/daphfred



IN COOPERATION
WITH
presents

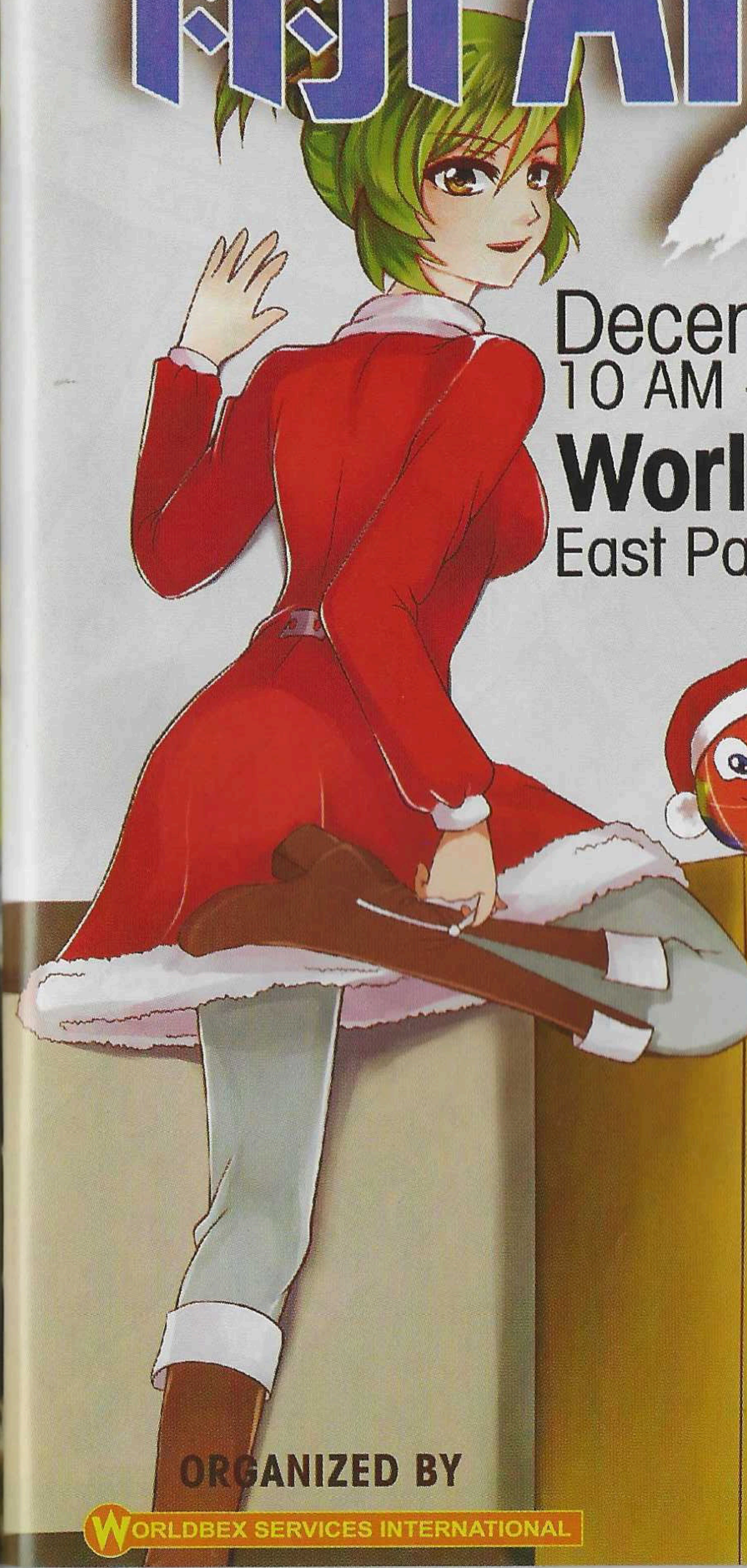


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Anime Manga Enthusiasts


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10 AM - 12 MN

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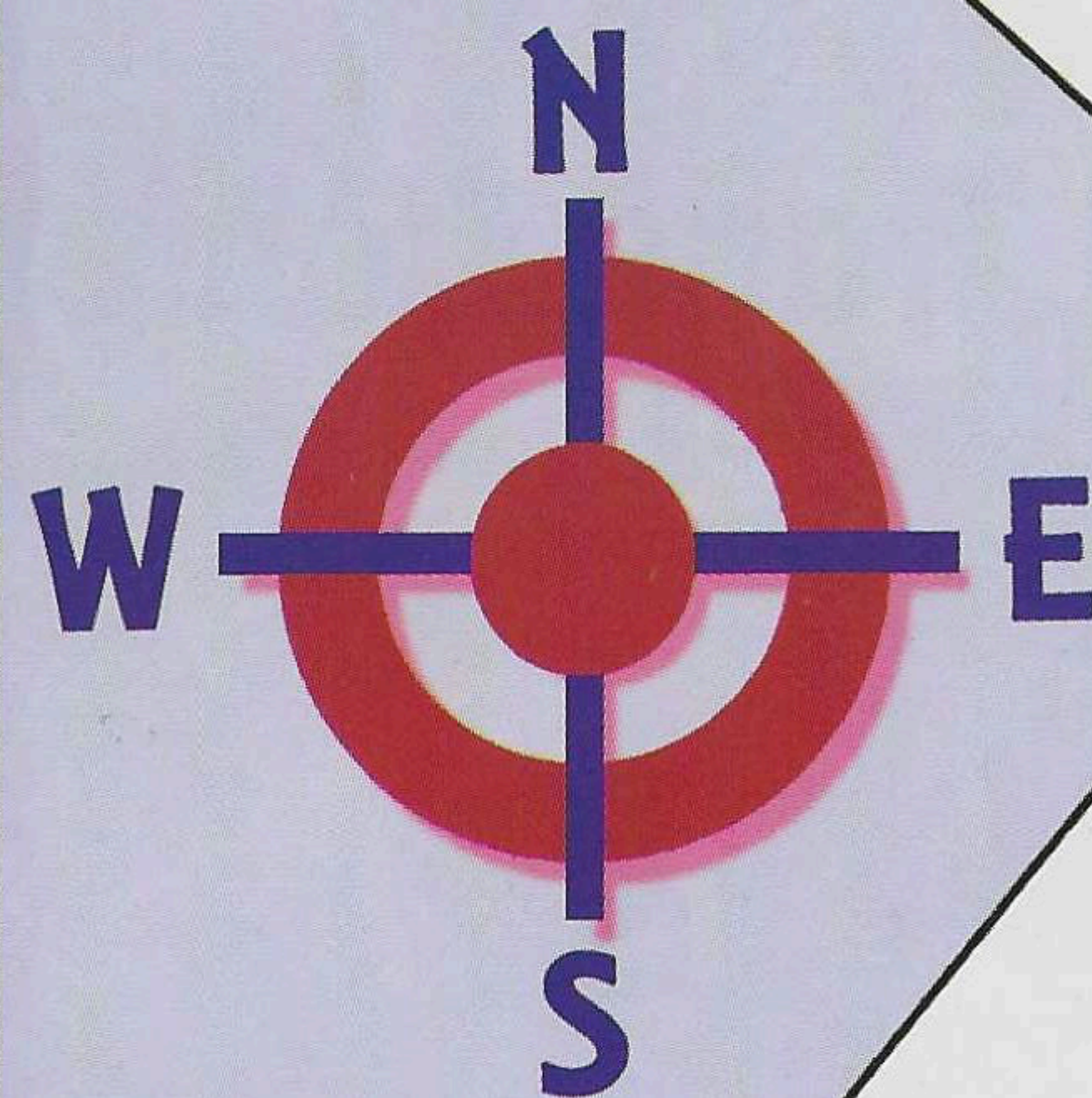


OTAKU LIFE HACKS

DIVIMAP

Cosplayer's guide
to Divisoria

by Yani



PUBLIC JEEPNEY ROUTES



Going to LRT1&2-Cubao



Going to Taft-Baclaran

DRAGON 8

C

JUAN LUNA ST.

B

ILAYA ST.

A

TABORA ST.

RECTO AVE.

RECTO AVE.

TUTUBAN SHOPPING
COMPLEX

F

RECTO AVE.

RECTO AVE.

NEW 999
SHOPPING
MALL

999
SHOPPING
MALL

E

SOLER ST.

ROMAN ST.

SOLER ST.

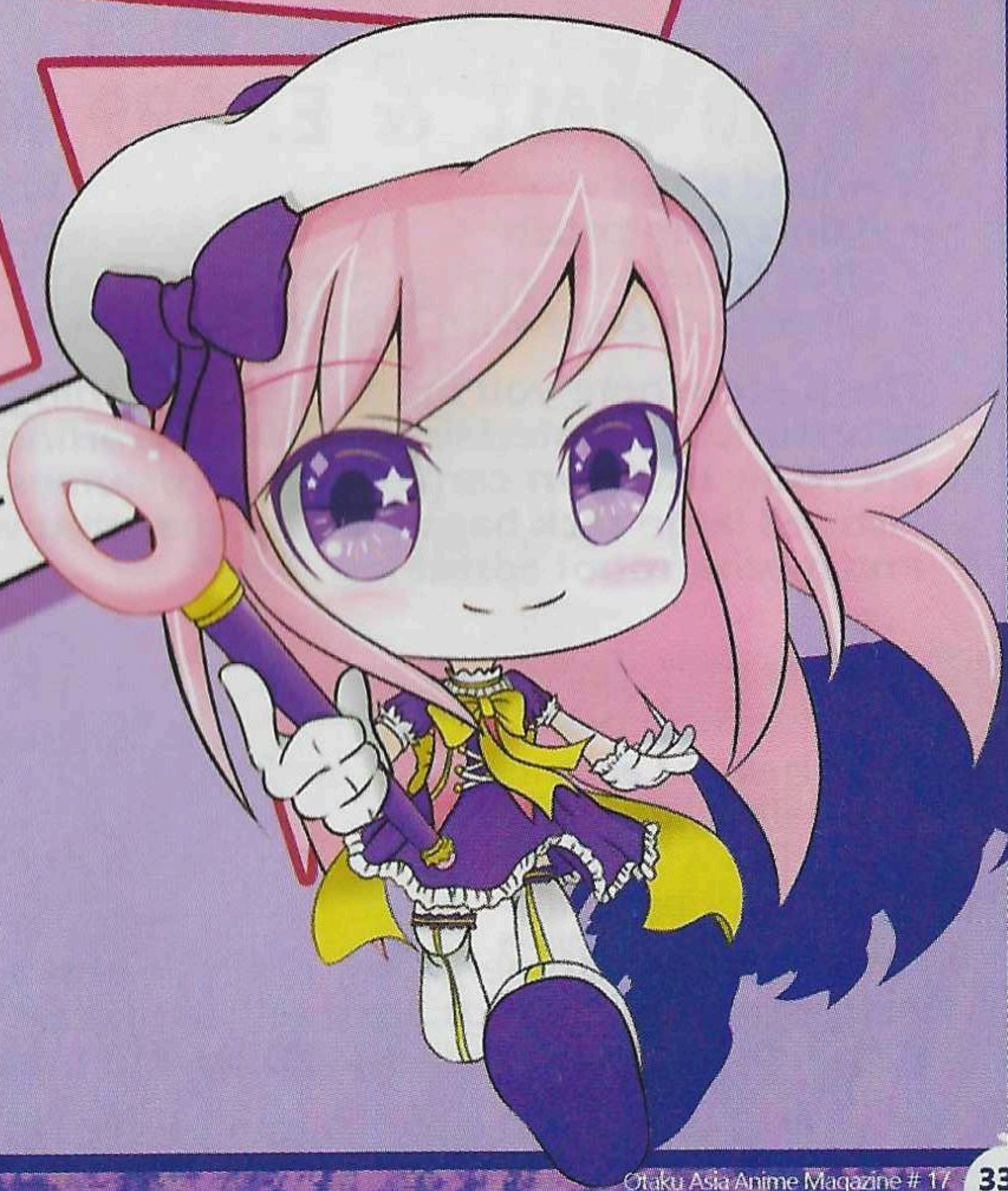
168 MALL

D

SOLER ST.

JUAN LUNA ST.

STA. ELENA ST.



A. TABORA ST.

- Good Morning Laces & Craft Shop
- Paper Mache products
- Accessories
- Morning Glory Laces & Craft Shop
- Feathers & Furs
- Craft Shops

The place where you can mostly find accessories for your costume like beads, feathers, fur, gems, etc. You can also find things for your props/weapons such as wings. You can even ask the vendors to customize it the way you want it. You can also buy sewing materials in here such as shears, needles, tape measures, etc.

B. ILAYA

- Cheap Wigs
- Textiles

All kinds of fabric can be seen and bought here at a very low price. Some stalls even sell ready to wear costumes, especially for kids. If you're low on budget for wigs, some stalls sell and offer cheap synthetic wigs that you can fix and style. Let your creativity spark!

C. JUAN LUNA

- Wigs
- Rubbersheets
- Upholstery Fabrics

The famous rubbersheet material that most cosplayers use to have high quality props can be bought here! All kinds of thickness of rubbersheet is available in here and they even have different colors aside from black. You can also find upholstery products in here such as foam, pillow stuffie and even fabrics of it. Different kinds of buck belt, giant zippers and bag locks can be also found here.

D. 168 MALL & E. 999 MALL

- Anime shops
- Paints/Paintbrush
- Shoe Glue
- Large Sack Bags with Zippers
- Wigs
- Socks/Gloves/Cycling Shorts
- Trolley Bags
- Accessories

The place where you mostly can find things you needed for your cosplay from accessories to materials needed for crafting. You can also find trolley bags that are really useful in carrying your costumes when going to a convention. They also sell large sack bags for costumes that will not fit in a trolley bag like armor and mecha/robot costumes.

F. TUTUBAN MALL

- Michelle's Laces and Button Shop
- Lynelle's Wig Store
- Textiles
- Accessories

Another establishment that offers almost all of the things needed for cosplay. Aside from selling wigs, Lynelle's also offers wig accessories and stuffs like, manequin head, wig comb, wig stand and the like.

THE SWORD MASTER

WHERE PROPS LOOK LIKE
REAL WEAPONS



Passion
for
Passion

ACCEPTS MTO:
-SWORDS
-ARMORS
-WANDS
& MANY MORE

Owner: Miko Garcia

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BENTO BOX

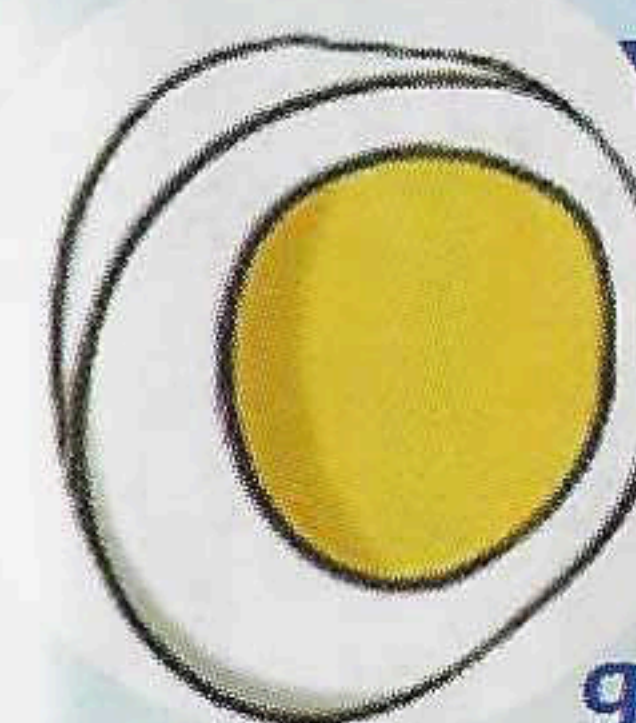
Oden, Simplified!

by: lizac 3.0

Winter food in Japan is known for its potpourri appearance, most of them with ingredients completely soaked in hot broth. As known to many, the temperature in Japan during winter ranges from 22.6 C to -30 C, so hot pots are a requisite in every dining table.

For some, a Japanese winter dish may seem a little scary to eat especially if you are not familiar with the ingredients. It's as if things are just there floating in broth, looking unappetizing and uncooked even. Imagine loads of seafood, tofu, and vegetables all unnamed, with boiled eggs swimming in plain hot water. Don't be scared though; it's still food and a nutritious one! You have just encountered the most popular winter dish in Japan called "oden".

Upon a glimpse at oden, you may feel a little hesitant to try it. Essentially, oden is quite easy to prepare if not for the long periods of boiling, soaking, and simmering. You just have to make the broth; peel and cut some ingredients; and mix them altogether. The only problem is the ingredients needed for a pot of oden. Worry not, because here's a little background about each of the most common ingredients of oden.



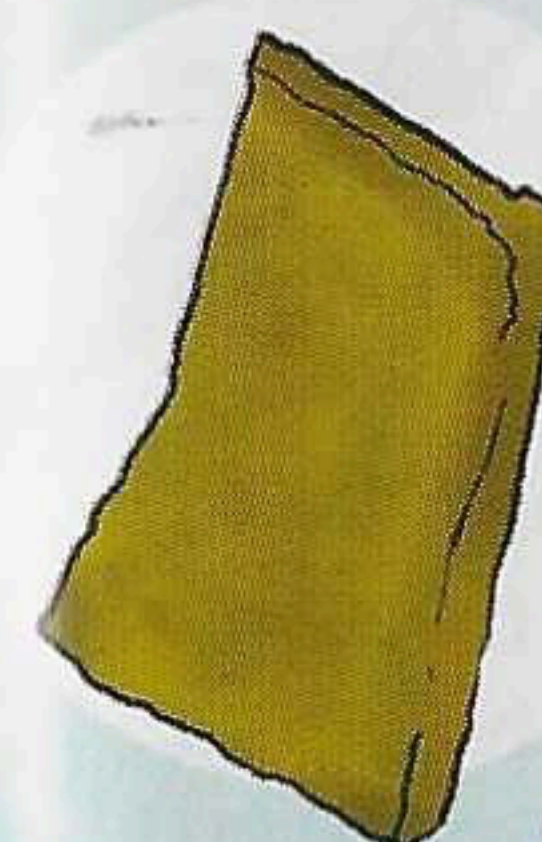
Yude tamago (Hard-boiled eggs)

Let's start off with the most recognizable of all, tamago or eggs. It is added to oden to give it a full flavor. It usually balances the saltiness and sweetness of the broth. Ideally, four hard-boiled eggs are added but it really depends on your taste.



Daikon radish (Radish / Labanos)

Oden will not be complete without daikon radish. In fact, it's the very first ingredient you need to peel and cut for this winter dish. Daikon radish doesn't differ that much from the radish we put in sinigang, only that it is softer and lighter compared to the type we have been accustomed to.



Atsu-age (Deep-fried Tofu)

Any other type of deep-fried tofu would be great for oden, but atsu-age complements the whole presentation of oden because of its glib and thick appearance.



Chikuwa (Fish-paste cakes)

Fish-paste cakes for oden are pre-cooked, which means it should be cooked or fried separately from other ingredients beforehand. Satsumaage, another kind of fish-paste cake, may be used. But the soft texture of chikuwa makes oden look more presentable.



Mochi Kinchaku

Mochiiri Kinchaku is another type of deep-fried tofu but bigger in size and usually looks like pouches. It has a mochi rice cake filling.



Kyabetsu (Rolled cabbage / Repolyo)

Another vegetable that would give color to oden is rolled cabbage. It is basically thick rolled cabbage leaves with ground beef as its filling, but you may add your own flavor to it by changing the filling into ground pork or even raw fish.



Konnyaku (Devil's tongue)

This is the main ingredient that makes people cringe the first time they see oden. Referred to as Devil's Tongue, konnyaku is a purplish crop usually cut in triangles to fit the oden bowl. As they say, don't judge the book by its cover, so it's a must that you try this yummy yam first before wincing at its appearance.



Shirataki (Yam Noodles)

Another odd-looking ingredient is shirataki or noodles made out of konnyaku, with another thick layer of konnyaku covering it. Apparently, this food is very thick, so you need to chew it very thoroughly.



Tsukune (Meat loaves)

Tsukune are meatloaves shaped into little balls made from ground chicken. You may use the original flavor for a Filipino-style oden. However, a void spicy meatloaves for oden because the taste of broth



Gyuu suji (Sinew / Beef tendons)

Gyuu suji are beef tendons. This part of the beef is not commonly cooked at home because it is very chewy, but if you want a tasty broth for your oden, add beef tendons and its respective broth after you boil it.

Oden is a definite favorite winter dish in Japan. So if you're feeling cold this Christmas season in the Philippines, especially now that the chilly Northeastern winds are here, try to make a Filipino-style oden with the ingredients above and get swelling full!



Transfer student asks me out to a date... using a gun?

I'm Seiya Kanie. Remember my name because I'm important. I'm the main protagonist. I am intelligent, sharp and very handsome. After class, transfer student Isuzu Sento forces me on a date to [Amagi Brilliant Park]. And that's where my story begins...



甘城 Amagi Brilliant Park ブリリアントパーク

Dates are generally romantic and sweet. It's flattering to be asked out on a date by the one you like. But Seiya Kanie's experience was not what he imagined it to be.

Transfer student, Isuzu Sento draws out her musket and threatens to shoot Seiya if he would not go to a date with her. Reluctantly, he agrees.

She brings him to an amusement theme park named Amagi Brilliant Park or Amaburi for short. She gives him the full tour, the amenities, rides and shows but his review of the park was very low. Mascots shouldn't be easily angered, the rides should be fixed and the whole park cleaned. The only thing he liked was the croquettes that was made by the park manager, Latifah Fleuranza.

When he meets her, he finds out about the real identity of the park's staff: that they are magical creatures from Maple Land, a magical realm.

Finally an amusement park anime! We all love going to theme parks to shoot some cans down, play arcade, watch clowns and acrobats or lose our voices on the rides.

Amagi Brilliant Park shows the behind the scenes of every amusement park. That they are all called *actors*, they all lead different lives and that they truly care about your happiness while inside the park.

But of course this is anime and the story is riddled with supernatural, as Seiya Kanie finds out. They ask him to manage the park and bring them 250,000 more guests within a deadline.

What will happen to the park and its residents? Will Seiya be able to help them?



CHARACTERS

SEIYA KANIE

Kouki Uchiyama

His name is derived from Kanye West.

Seiya is a 16 yr old second year honor student in Amagi High School. Five years ago, we was in the entertainment industry. Probably because of this, he has a narcissistic personality which caused people to turn away from him.

He was given the power to listen to people's mind though he can only use it once with each person.



ISUZU SENTO

Ai Kakuma

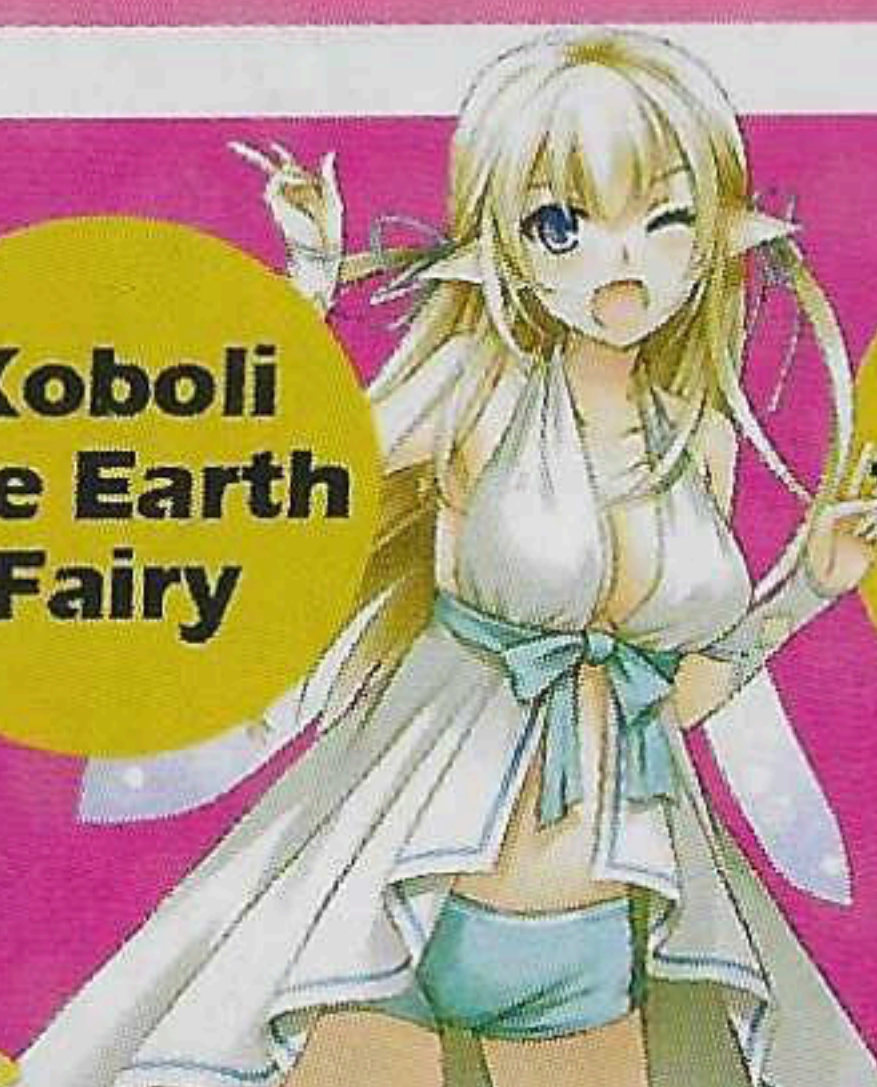
Her name is derived from 50 Cent.

She is a Maple Lander from the magic land, Maple Land. Isuzu is the First Royal Guard equipped with a magical muzzleloader, Steinberger that she can summon from part of her body.

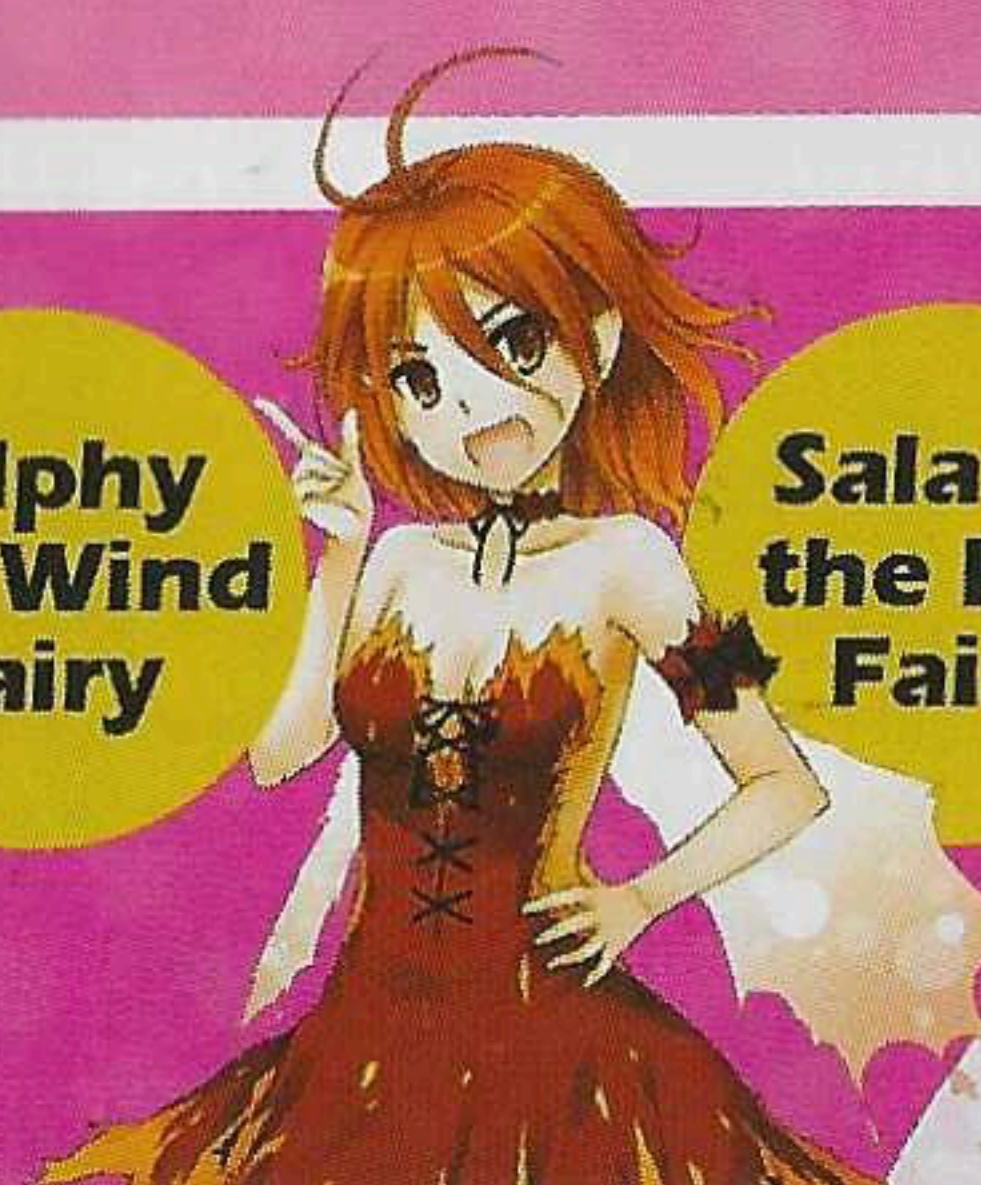
She is very stoic, unemotional and expressionless. Her voice is also very monotone. She has little experience with humans and doesn't know how to properly approach them.



Koboli
the Earth
Fairy



Sylphy
the Wind
Fairy



Salama
the Fire
Fairy



Muse
the Water
Fairy

LATIFA FLEURANZA

Yukiyo Fujii

Her name is derived from Queen Latifah.

Cheerful, caring and passionate. These are the traits of a well-brought princess like Latifah. She has acted as the manager of the park since it's establishment and is the one who made the croquettes Seiya liked so much.

The extent of her abilities is unknown but it is revealed that she can bestow magic power to anyone through a kiss.



© 賀東招二・なかしまゆか/甘ブリ再生委員会



MOFFLE

Ayako Kawasumi

His character design is reused from Full Metal Panic's fictional mascot, Bonta-kun.

He is the main mascot of Amagi Brilliant Park and is the fairy of sweets who lives in "Moffle's Sweets House". He and Seiya shares a mutual dislike and they have had several physical fights. Moffle hates being called a rip-off.

He is also Latifa's uncle and is respected by the other mascots in the park.



Tiramy is the fairy of flowers and lives in Tiramy's Flower Adventure. Tiramy is male.



Macaron is the fairy of music and lives in Macaron's Music Theater

AMAGI BRILLIANT PARK



SORCERER'S HILL



Fairy tale area of dreams in which mascots from Maple Island, the realm of magic reside.

Just like many theme parks, there are several attractions. The first one that Isuzu shows Kanie is Sorcerer's Hill, the biggest section of the whole park.

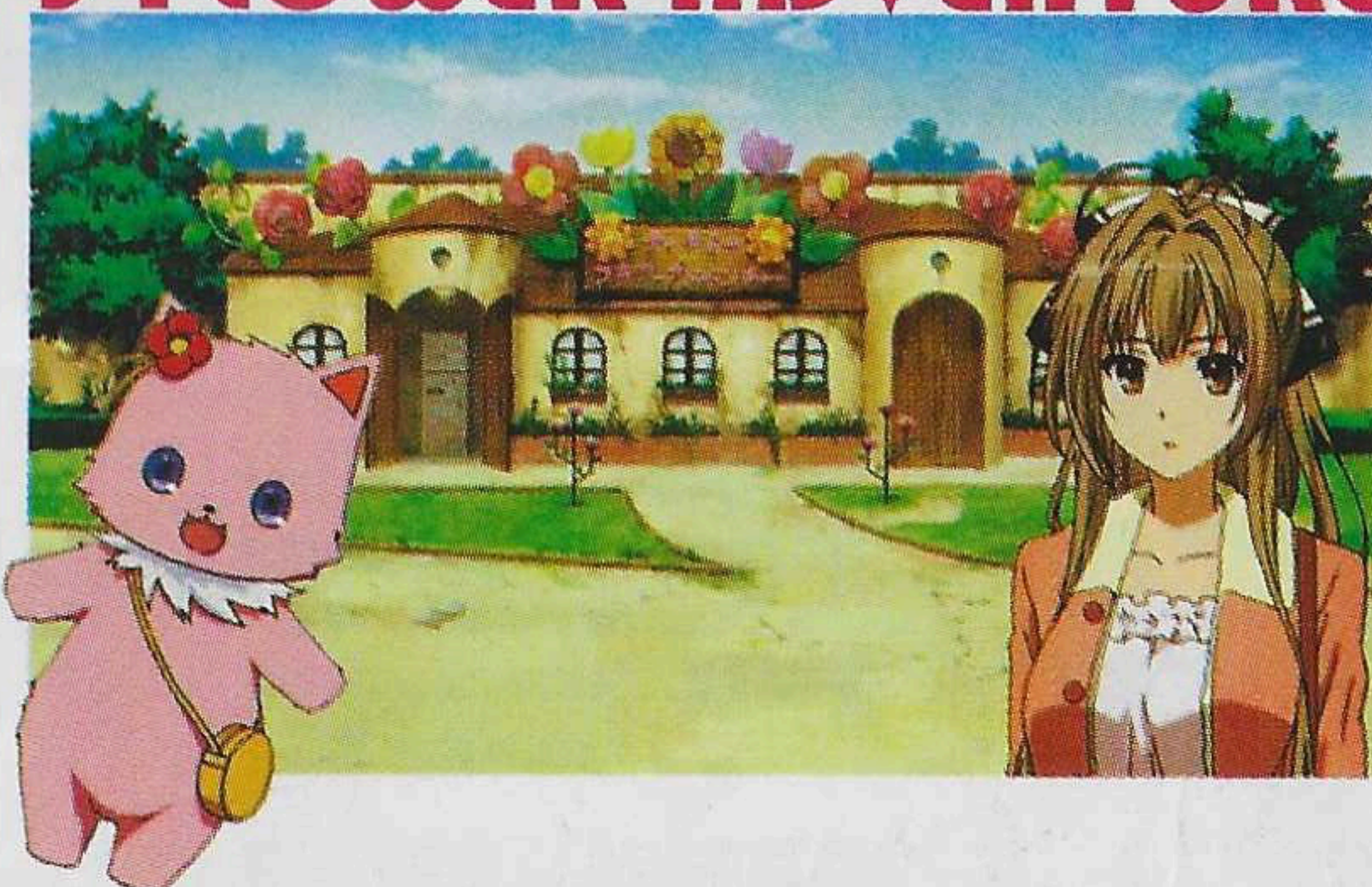
As advertised, this is where most of the fairies live. They provide games and amusement from their homes.

TIRAMIE'S FLOWER ADVENTURE

You embark on a heart-cleansing train journey to a world of love and joy.

Inside is a train ride where mechanical flowers sing. As a finale, Tiramie himself will show up in a mini stage to perform.

In episode 1, Kanie finds out that the train tracks are already misaligned and that Tiramie does not come out to greet the guests.



MACARON'S MUSIC THEATER



His lovely music and rhythm set one's heart aflutter. Anyone who listens to him is filled with happiness.

Macaron plays the violin to guests in his theater.

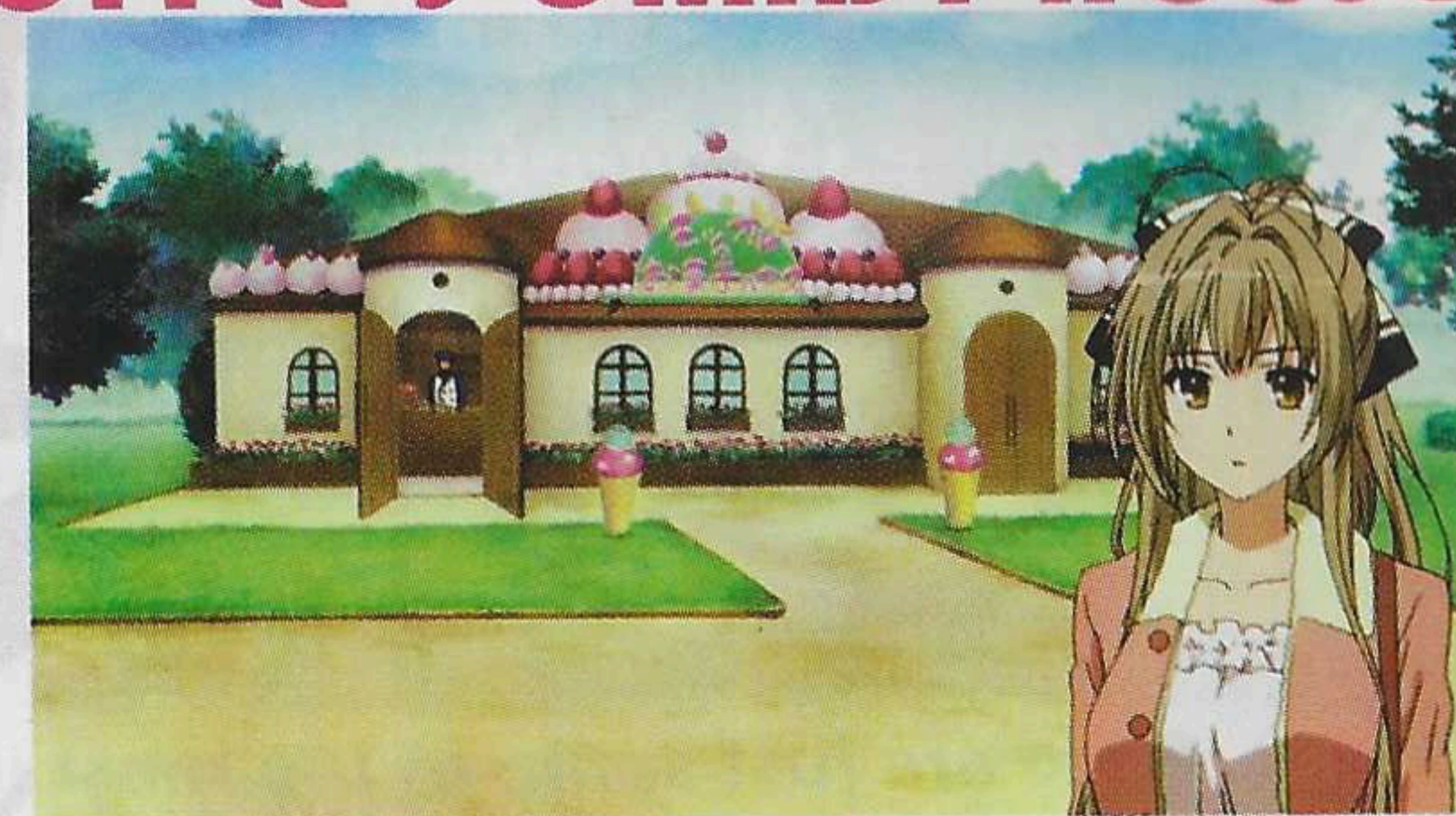
However, when Isuzu and Kanie visits, it was closed. Isuzu calls Macaron "a true artist" for closing shop when he's not inspired which annoyed Kanie.

MOFFLE'S CANDY HOUSE

Eating his sweets will fill you with hopes and dreams.

Lead mascot, Moffle's house is styled as a bakery. The guest is to shoot at rats using a laser gun. It has difficulty levels: easy, medium and hard.

No matter your score, you get to meet and take a photo with Moffle. Kanie noticed that it was the most well maintained attraction.



ELEMENTARIO



Their perfect dance moves and scintillating wire action are the real highlights.

Fairies perform magic and dance: Muse of water, Sylphy of wind, Koboli of earth and Salama of fire.

When Kanie watched, there were almost no guests but the fairies still perform lively onstage and act as if people responded.

CONCLUSION

Kyoto Animation as a producer started with *Full Metal Panic! Fomoffu* and is now producing another Shoji Gato light novel, *Amagi Brilliant Park*. The first poster that was released was very misleading. It was a single man standing in an abandoned park during sunset which looked very serious and dark. The anime itself is funny, cute and interesting.

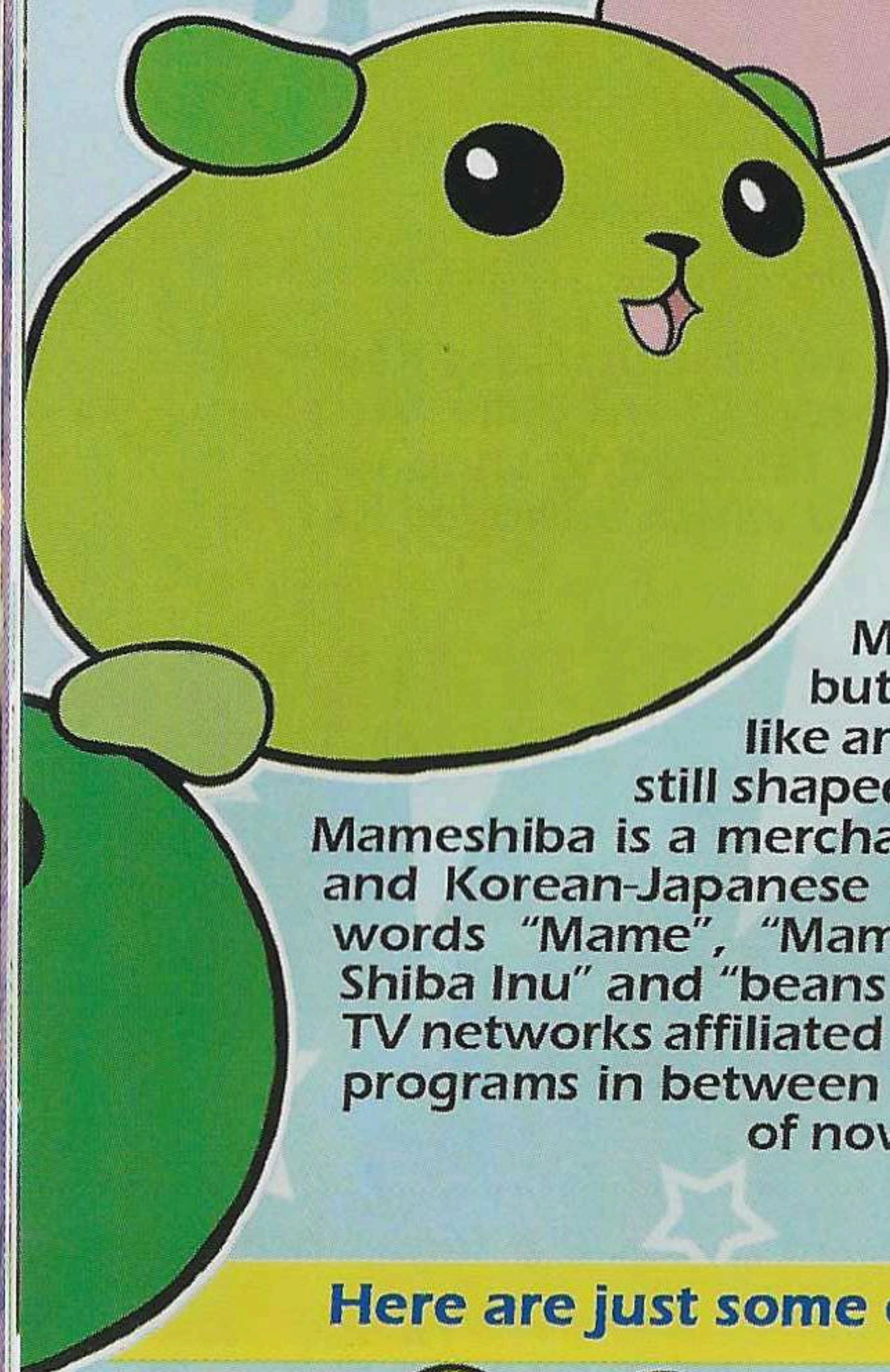
The OP, *Extra Magic Hours* performed by Akino with bless4 is catchy and suits the anime. It could even be the park's theme music. Three manga adaptation have also started serialization speeding up the show's success.

Seiya Kanie will definitely try to bring the park back to life with the help of the park employees. Start cheering for him by watching this season's best anime, *Amagi Brilliant Park*.



CHARACTER BIO *The Jack of all Beans!* MAMESHIBA

by: lizac 3.0

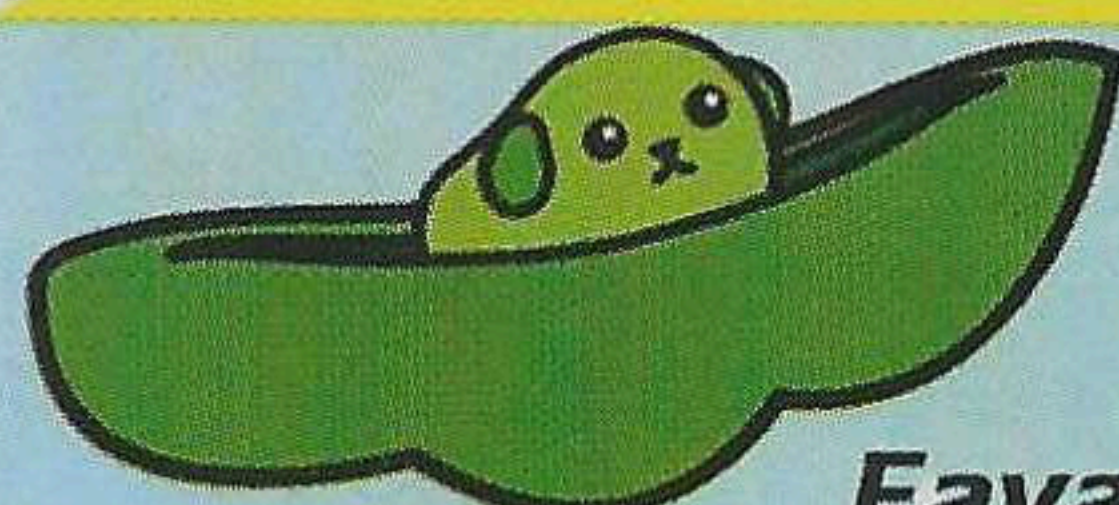


Are they dogs cosplaying as beans? Or are they beans cosplaying as dogs? The appropriate presumption may be the first one because seriously, how can a bean cosplay as a dog? It's almost unthinkable for a legume to look like a dog. However, it's actually confirmed to be the latter!

Mameshiba is a character originally designed as a bean, but has the facial features of a dog which make them look like an actual one. They come in different colors and sizes but still shaped as a bean to consistently carry the "bean trademark."

Mameshiba is a merchandise character crafted by Kim Sukwon, a copywriter and Korean-Japanese national. The name Mameshiba originated from the words "Mame", "Mameshiba", and "Mamechishiki" meaning "bean", "toy Shiba Inu" and "beans of knowledge" respectively. They were first spotted in TV networks affiliated with Dentsu, not as commercials but as short animated programs in between TV shows. The Mameshiba characters usually pop out of nowhere and give random bits of trivia aimed at children.

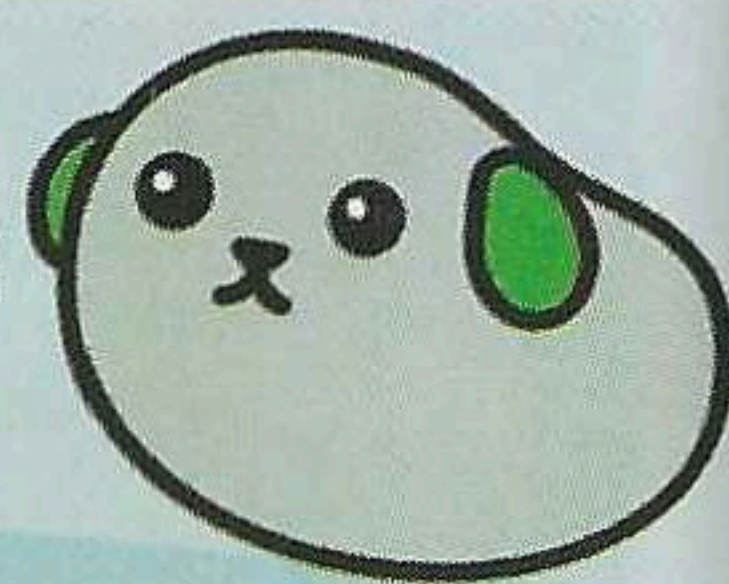
Here are just some of the most interesting Mameshiba characters!



Edamame is a bean in its pod and loves adventures and trips all around the world.



Fava Bean is the largest of them all. It has a calm and composed behavior amidst difficult situations.



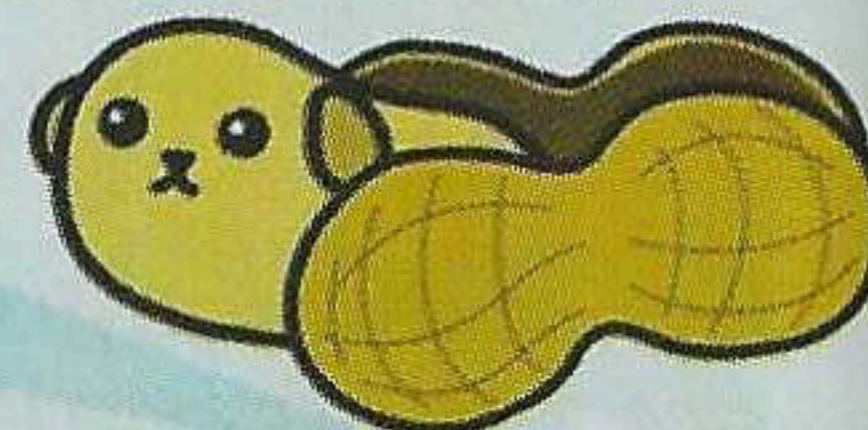
Lentil is the only bean wearing a pair of glasses. It is good in math and computations in general.

Sweet Beans is a group of old beans who are knowledgeable in all areas, but are exceptionally good in history.



Pistachio is a bean who is mostly in its shell, hiding from the world.

Peanut, the opposite of Pistachio, is an outgoing bean who loves taking on challenges.



Green Peas is a group of beans who can't do anything individually without the other green peas.

The Scream looks like a horrid bean, but other beans haven't seen it yet. Perhaps it is the Ghost bean? Yikes!



Other Mameshiba characters can be viewed in their official website at dogatch.jp/mameshibaworld Some shops also sell Mameshiba merchandise such as plushies and books, just the perfect Christmas presents for anyone who likes cute things.

10





OCTOBER 2015

3 - Kaname Madoka

10 - Sakata Gintoki

14 - Sawada Tsunayoshi

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COSPLAY MANIA 4 2015	5	6 Kirigiri Kyouko	7 Kirigaya Kazuto	8	9 Murasakibara Atsushi	COSPLAY MANIA 3 2015
11	12	13	14 Sonico	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Ayase Eli	22	23	24 Kiryu Zero
25	26	27	28	29	30 Himuro Tatsuyo	31 L Lawliet

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL SAINTS DAY 1	ALL SOULS DAY 2	3	4	5	6	 7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	 17	18	19	20	21
 22	23	24	25	26	27	 28
29	BONIFACIO DAY 30					

11

NOVEMBER 2015

1 - Hoshizora Rin

3 - Armin Arlert

3 - Kagura

22 - Takishima Kei

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	 2	3	4	 5	6	7
8	9	 10	11	12	13	 14
15	16	17	 18	 19	 20	21
22	23	24	 25	26	27	28

2

FEBRUARY 2015

25 - Sadaharu


DECEMBER 2015

25 - Ackerman Levi

30 - GM Kandy

31 - Yamada Hifumi

31 - Kuronuma Sawako



JANUARY 2015

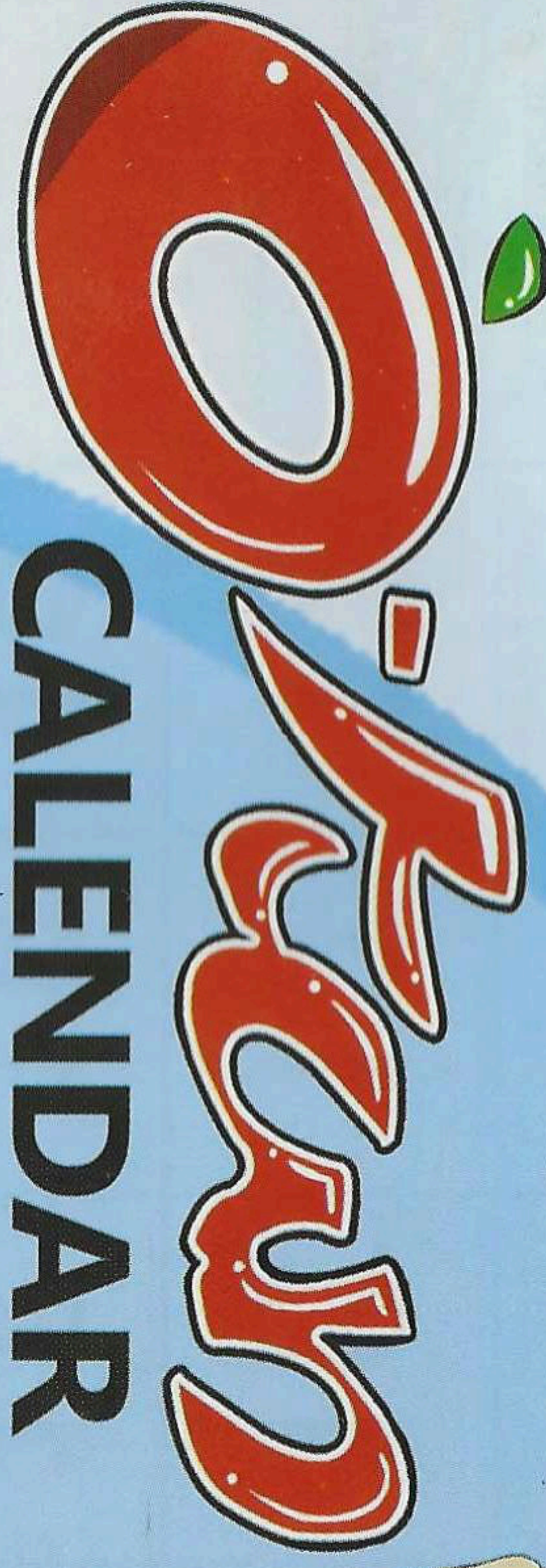
1 - Sakura Mikan

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				HAPPY 1 NEW YEAR!	2 Tsubomi Kido	3 Leon Kuwata
4	5 Kuroi Yatogami	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Hanayo Koizumi
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Tetsuya Kuroko



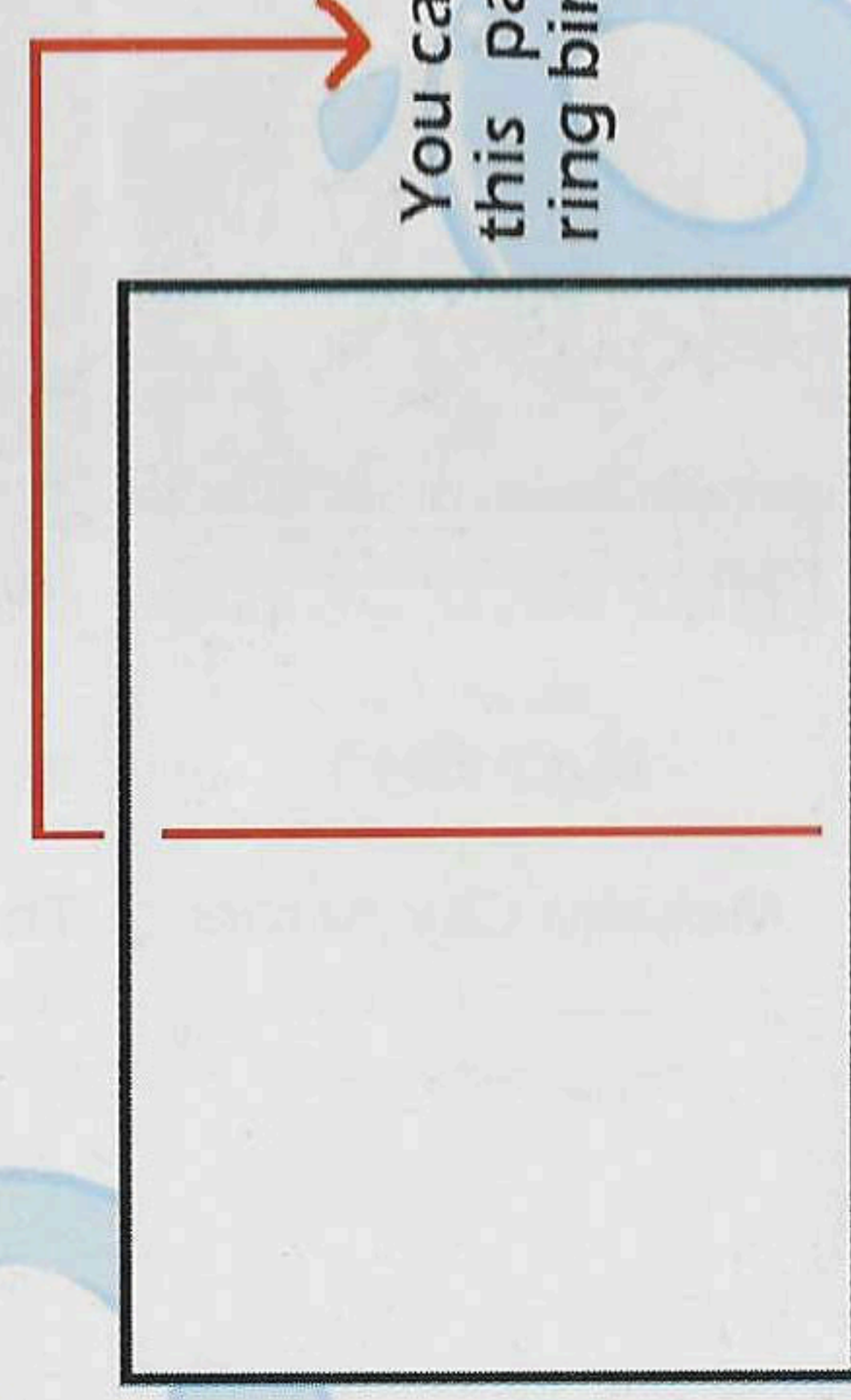
2015

CALENDAR



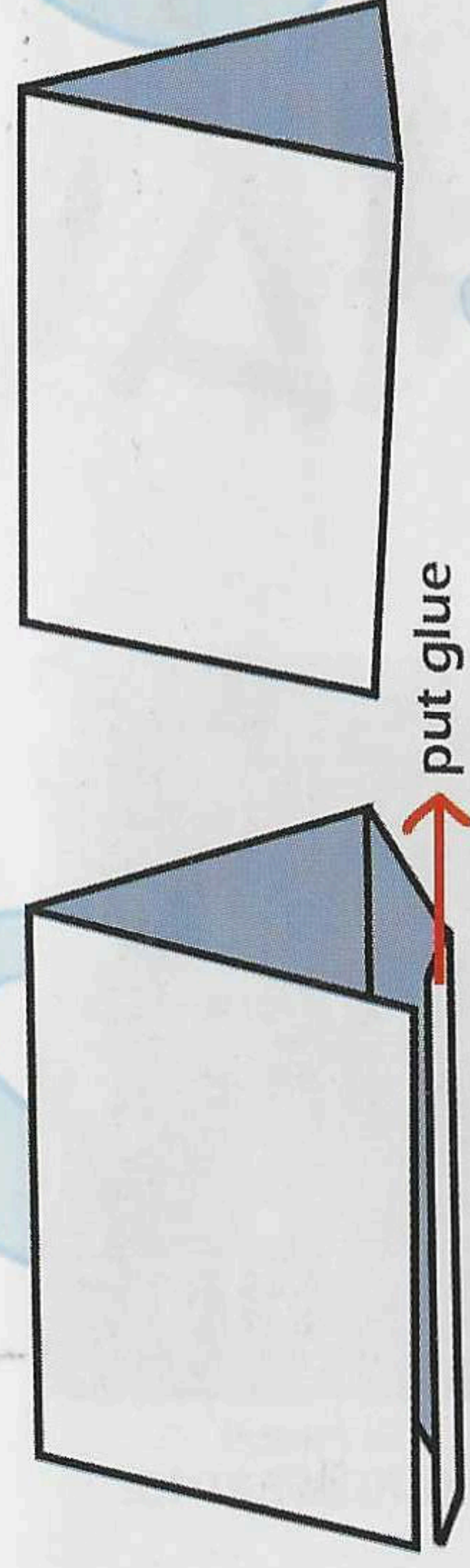
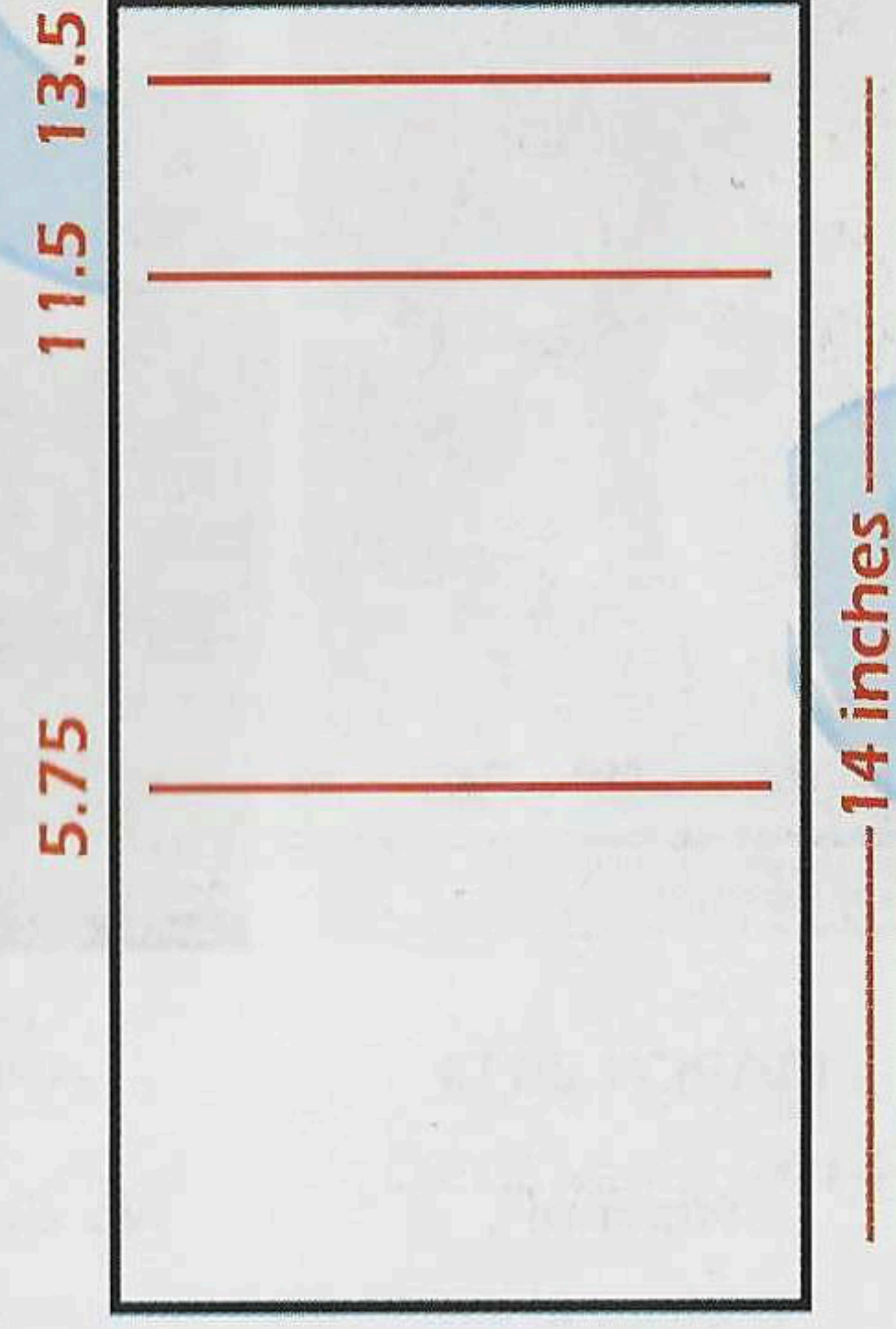
INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Carefully remove pages 45-60 from the magazine.
2. Bind the said pages in the middle (see illustration below).



You can stapler this part, sew this part using thread, use ring binders or glue it.

3. For the calendar standee, get a cardboard, measure 5.75 x 14 inches then cut. The cardboard should be in landscape mode. Put markings on the following measures: 5.75, 11.5 and 13.5 then fold on those measurements.



put glue

4. Find the centerfold (pages 52-53) and paste it on the calendar standee. The centerfold must be facing the standee when you paste it.



*pages 45 and 60 must be outside

*centerfold is inside

*paste it aligned with the standee

5. And there you have it~ O-kun Calendar to keep you reminded with some of our favorite anime characters and cosplay sensation birthdays, some cosplay events and even Philippine events and holidays. Happy 2015 Otafans!



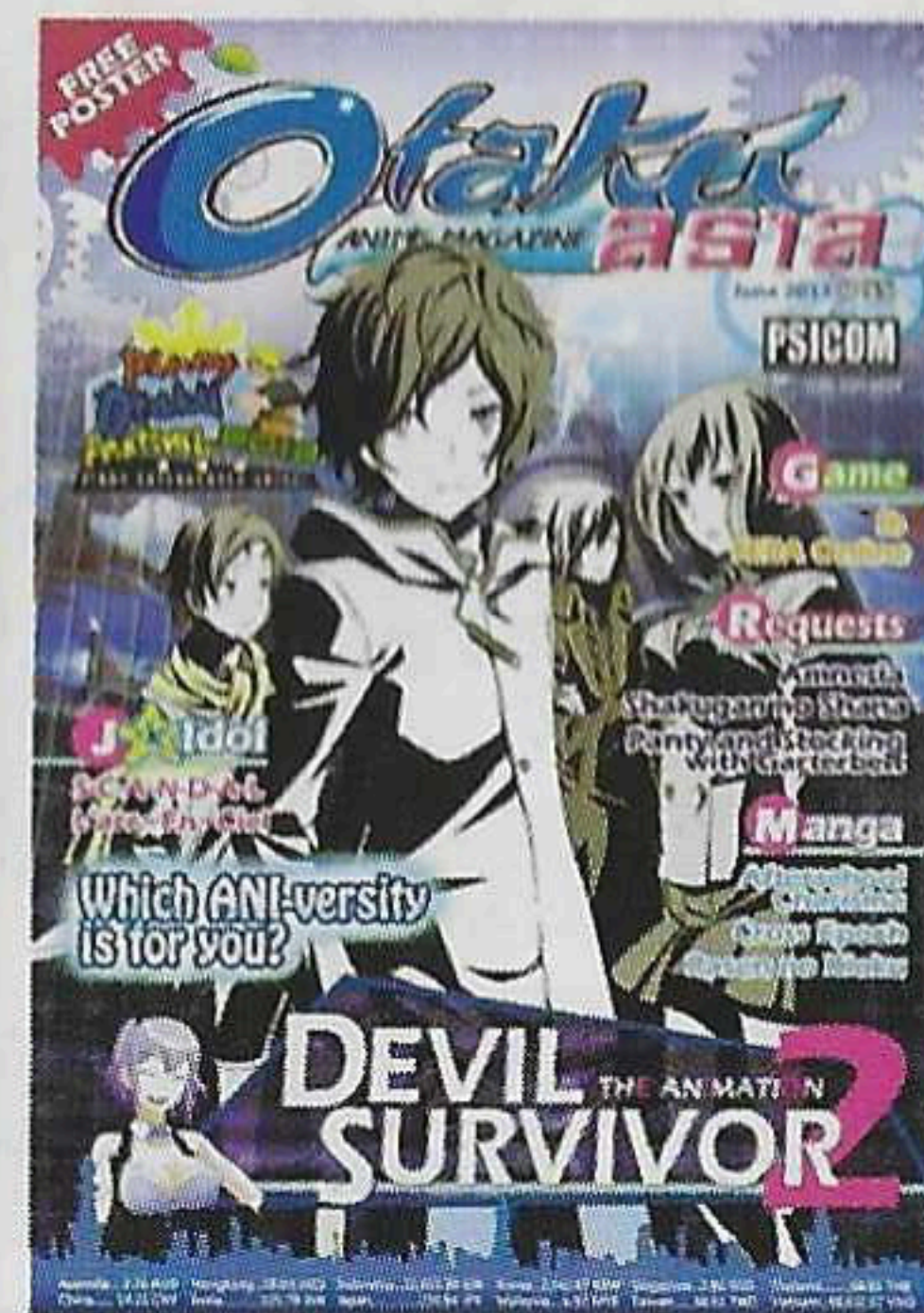
*The Calendar will start on page 50.

DO YOU HAVE THEM ALL?



Issue 1
MAY 2013

Hataraku Maou-sama



Issue 2
JUNE 2013

Devil Survivor: The Animation 2



Issue 3
JULY 2013

Karneval



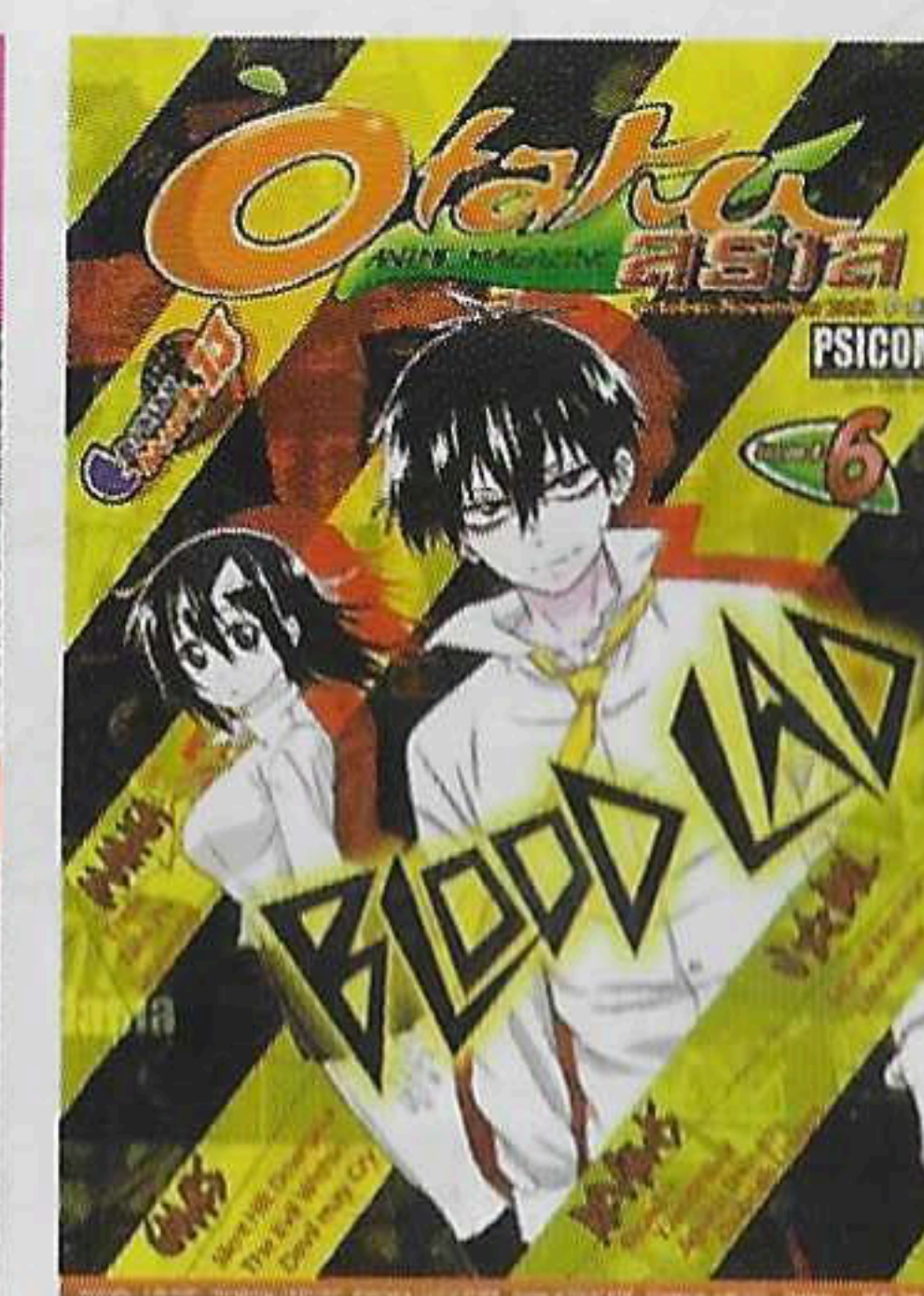
Issue 4
AUGUST 2013

Date a Live



Issue 5
SEPTEMBER 2013

Danganronpa: The Animation



Issue 6
OCTOBER-
NOVEMBER 2013

Blood Lad



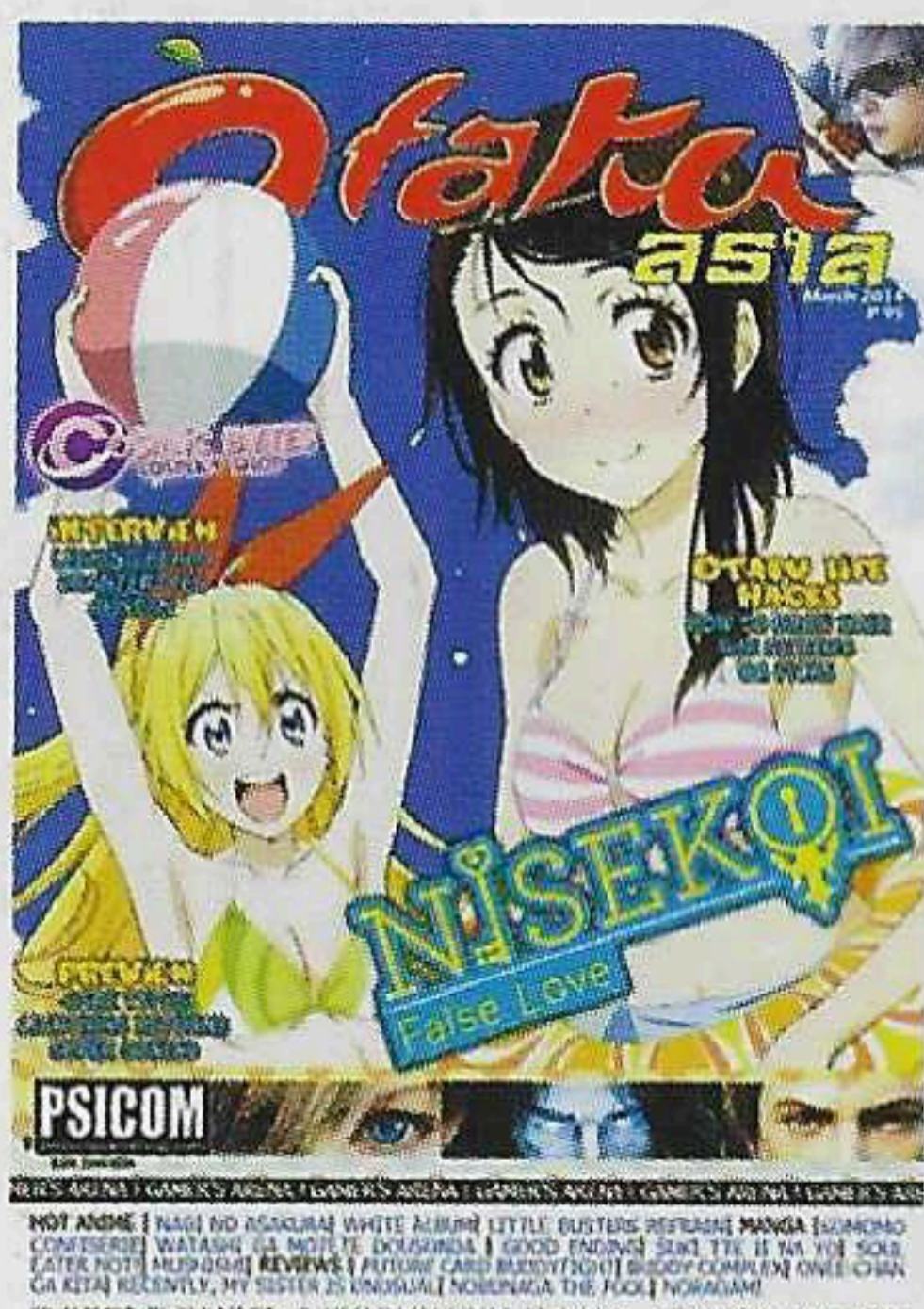
Issue 7
DECEMBER 2013

Blazblue Alter Memory



Issue 8
FEBRUARY 2014

Log Horizon



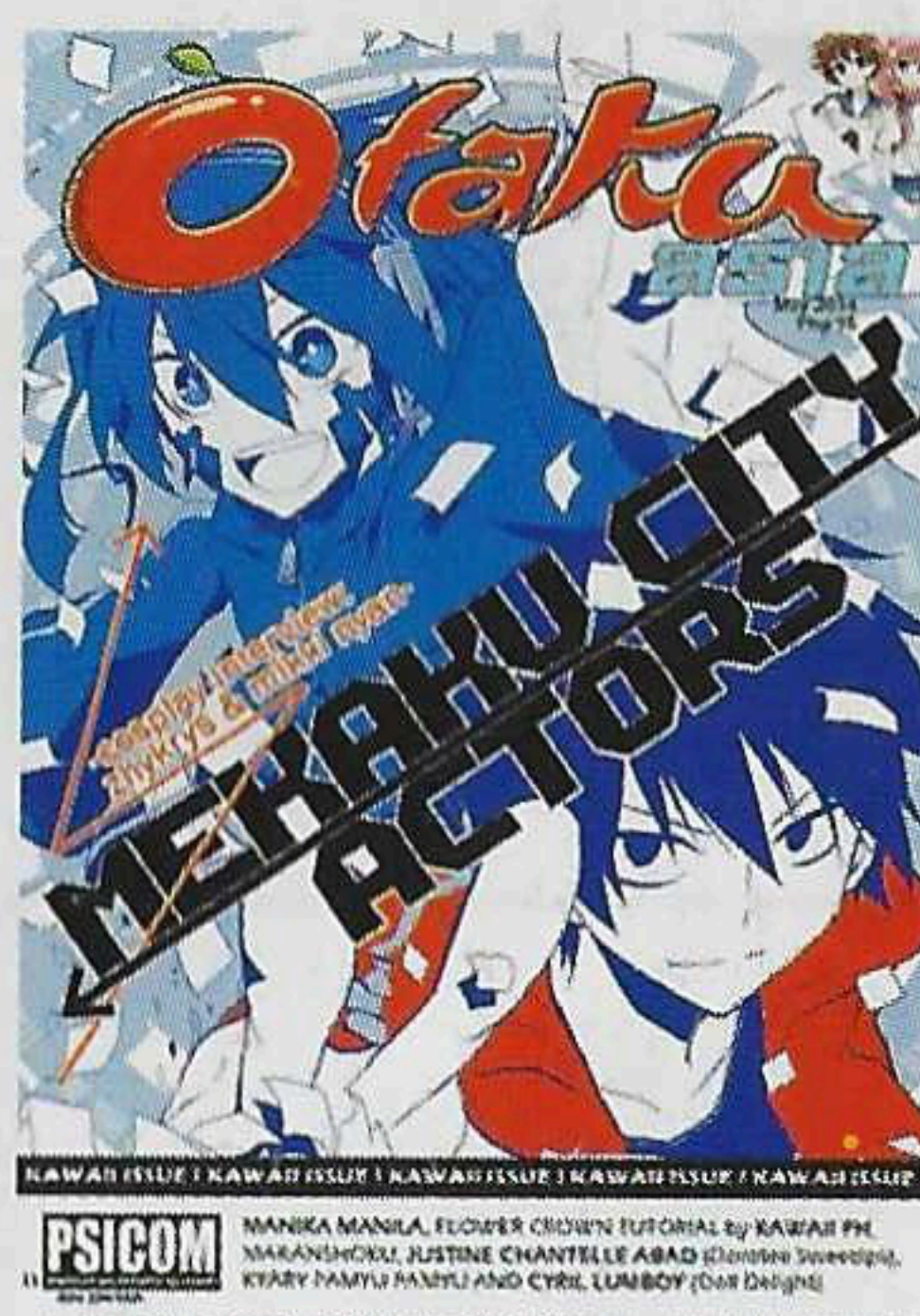
Issue 9
MARCH 2014

Nisekoi



Issue 10
APRIL 2014

No Game No Life



Issue 11
MAY 2014

Mekaku City Actors



Issue 12
JUNE 2014

The Irregular at Magic High School



Issue 13
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER
2014

Liui Aquino as Gintoki



Issue 14
SEPTEMBER-
OCTOBER 2014

Sword Art Online II:
Phantom Bullet



Issue 15
OCTOBER-
NOVEMBER 2014

Tokyo Ghoul



Issue 16
NOVEMBER-
DECEMBER 2014

Vocaloid 3

7

JULY 2015

7 - Maizono Sayaka

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Heartfilia Lucy

Midorima Shintarou

Yata Misaki

Kozakura Marry

Yazawa Nico

Uchiha Sasuke

6

JUNE 2015

9 - Rokudo Mukuro

13 - Noiz

17 - GM Ren

18 - GM Almadel

30 - Nanase Haruka

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1

Yashiro Isana

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6

Kuze Hibiki

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Koushi Sugawara

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Kise Ryouta

21

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26

27

Shouyou Hinata

28

29

30

Tamahome

Usagi Tsukino

31 - Aomine Daiki

AUGUST 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						 1 Hazuki Nagisa
2	 3 Kousaka Honoka	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	 12 Shimura Shinpachi	13	 14 Liu Aquino	 15 Azami
16	17	18	 19 Koujaku	20	 21 NINOY AQUINO DAY	22
23 30	24 31 NATIONAL HEROES DAY	25	26	27	28	29



MAY 2015

4 - Izaya Orihara





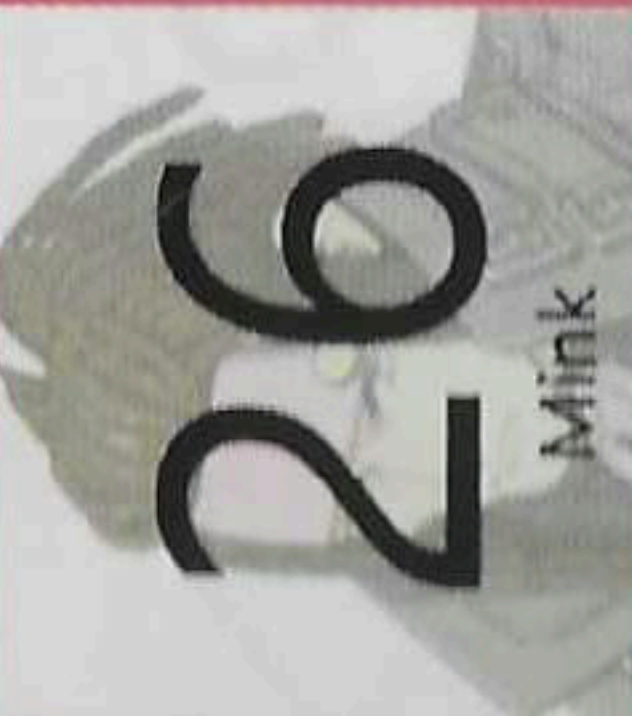

5 - Togami Byakuya

5 - Hibari Kyoya

24 - 2nd Year Anniv.

of Otaku Asia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					LABOR DAY 1	2
3	4 Edogawa Conan	5 Hijikata Toshirō	6	7	8	9
10 Shuuya Kano	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	 3	4	5
6	7	8	9	 10	11	 12
13	14	 15	16	17	18	19
MIBF						BEST OF ANIME
20	21	22	23	24	25	 26
BEST OF ANIME						
27	28	 29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
EASTER 5 SUNDAY	6	7	8	ARAW NG 9 KAGITINGAN	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 19	20	21	 22	23	 24	25
26	 27	28	29	30		



Cosmic Bytes
COSPLAY SHOP
for all your cosplay needs

www cosmicbytes.com
f /cosmicbytes.cosplayshop
✉ cosmicbytes@yahoo.com

+639178373710
+639475261157
+639334417065
(02)6226391

Cosplayer: Liui Aquino
Costume and wig: Cosmic Bytes Cosplay Shop
Photographer: Fritz Tentativa

3

MARCH 2015

14 - Fujisaki Chihiro

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Sonoda Umi



Fukawa Touko

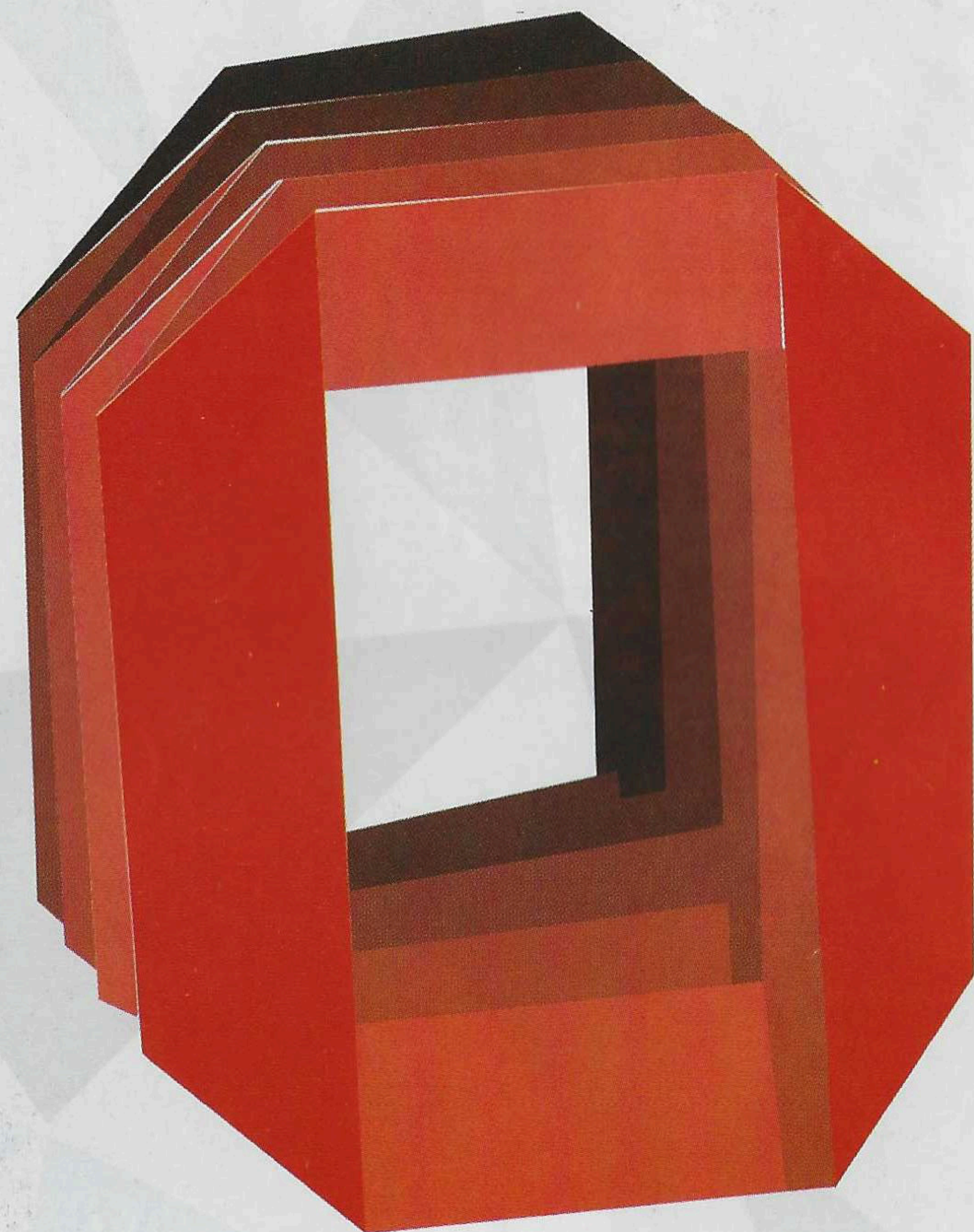


Haruno Sakura

SPRING
EQUINOX

WHITE

DAY



O-KUN'S YEAR END REPORT

Research by Ann Flores
Layout by kanddy
Font by Peter Fritzsche



For the Japanese, it's good omen to clean the house on New Year. This is a sign that we are welcoming the New Year with a clean slate. But as we wipe off dust from our cabinets and rearrange our collection of books or DVDs, we come across things that trigger a memory or two of our past. Attached to these memories are feelings of joy, regret, admiration, and even longing. While we welcome the coming New Year with the strong hope that we can make more great memories, there are others of our past that we would wish to keep and cherish.

Here at Otaku Asia, we're making our own trip down the memory lane by bringing you some of the best memories for 2014!

Find out which one of your bets for animé characters, J-music, manga, cosplay, games and animé series made it to our list!

ANIME CHARACTERS

MALE

FEMALE



KANEKI KEN TOKYO GHOUL

More than being a victim of the ghouls, Ken has raised himself in the top spot because as a round character, he creates a strong mixture of good versus evil. When he becomes half-ghoul and half-man, the borderline between these two sides turn into a blur. While wanting to protect the people he cares about, he has to choose which between the race of man or ghoul he swears his loyalty to.

With such a tough dilemma at hand, Ken's character develops into one that identifies where true strength lies whether or not one is human or monster. This search for strength identifies him as the male character of this year as he serves as a strong role model for everyone.



MIKOTO MIKOSHIBA
SEKKAN SHOUJO
NOZAKI-KUN

Yes, you are reading the top male characters. While Nozaki thinks only of his heroine protagonist in our top two characters, Mikoto or Mikorin possesses a strong appeal for his attitude that can make you roll on the floor laughing. While he delivers cheesy, blood-gushing lines to the girls, he ends up actually very embarrassed about it. Despite this, Mikoto tends to be very honest about the way he feels around people to whom he is attached. For these reasons, we think that Mikoto deserves our soft and second spot.



KIRIGAYA KAZUTO
SWORD ART
ONLINE II

Racing for the third spot is Kirigaya or Kirito who battles not only with his wits and cheats but also with his heart. While others first found him as a cheater for using what he learned as a beta tester, this act is accounted for when he saves the people trapped within Sword Art Online. In the sequel of this anime, Kirito retains his use of strong skills and strong will to help others by defeating the "Death Gun." His confidence built by experience lands him as an honorable mention in our list.



ASADA SHINO
SWORD ART
ONLINE II

With strength in character and physical force, Sinon shows us that anyone can overcome any hurdles in getting over his or her fears. Regardless of the trauma that she experienced in killing a robber with a gun, we see in Sinon determination and strong willpower to protect her loved ones. Using the game of Gun Gale Online (GGO), she takes this fear as an expertise and eventually grows tougher in real life as well. Her moves definitely strike her third of female character this year.



TOUKA KIRISHIMA
TOKYO GHOUL

Taking the second spot is Touka who comes from being a cold and ruthless ghoul to embracing the emotions that make her human. As she is always aware of the dangers of her identity being revealed, Touka has to do anything to protect her and her friends' identity. While she tends to be rash in making these decisions, she becomes open to Ken's influence, making her a little less of the monster each day. A growing heart deserves recognition and that's what Touka gets!



AKAME AKAME GA KILL

Asuna can sit down on the throne of female characters this year as she possesses physical and emotional strength.

Being trained in a survival exam, Akame is undoubtedly skilled in combat and the use of her Teigu (katana) which makes her a highly capable assassin. Even though she has a past that can make anyone weak with self-pity and depression, she has a personality that is in contrast with the ruthless nature of her role in her group, Night Raid. She recognizes pain and sorrow, but does her best to conceal them in order to continue with their survival. Another quality that we share with Akame is her love affair with food.

So, top 1 spot? Why not?



AKB48 TSUGI NO ASHIATO

With more than 100 members in their group, AKB48 can really conquer the top J-music!

Creator and producer Yasushi Akimoto created this idol group as "idols you can meet everyday" and they stayed true to this concept with their handshake events and regular performances in their Akihabara theater. What's a way to wrap up this record this year? *Tsugi no Ashiato*, an album that has a collection of their latest upbeat songs and three songs topping the Oricon charts for the first half of 2014. They truly make the J-music a memorable experience for their fans!

Next is Masaharu Fukuyama's album, *HUMAN* which was third in Oricon's album ranking. The Sandaime J Soul Brothers pop-R&B male dance and vocal unit takes third in our chart after releasing their album, *THE BEST / BLUE IMPACT* last January.

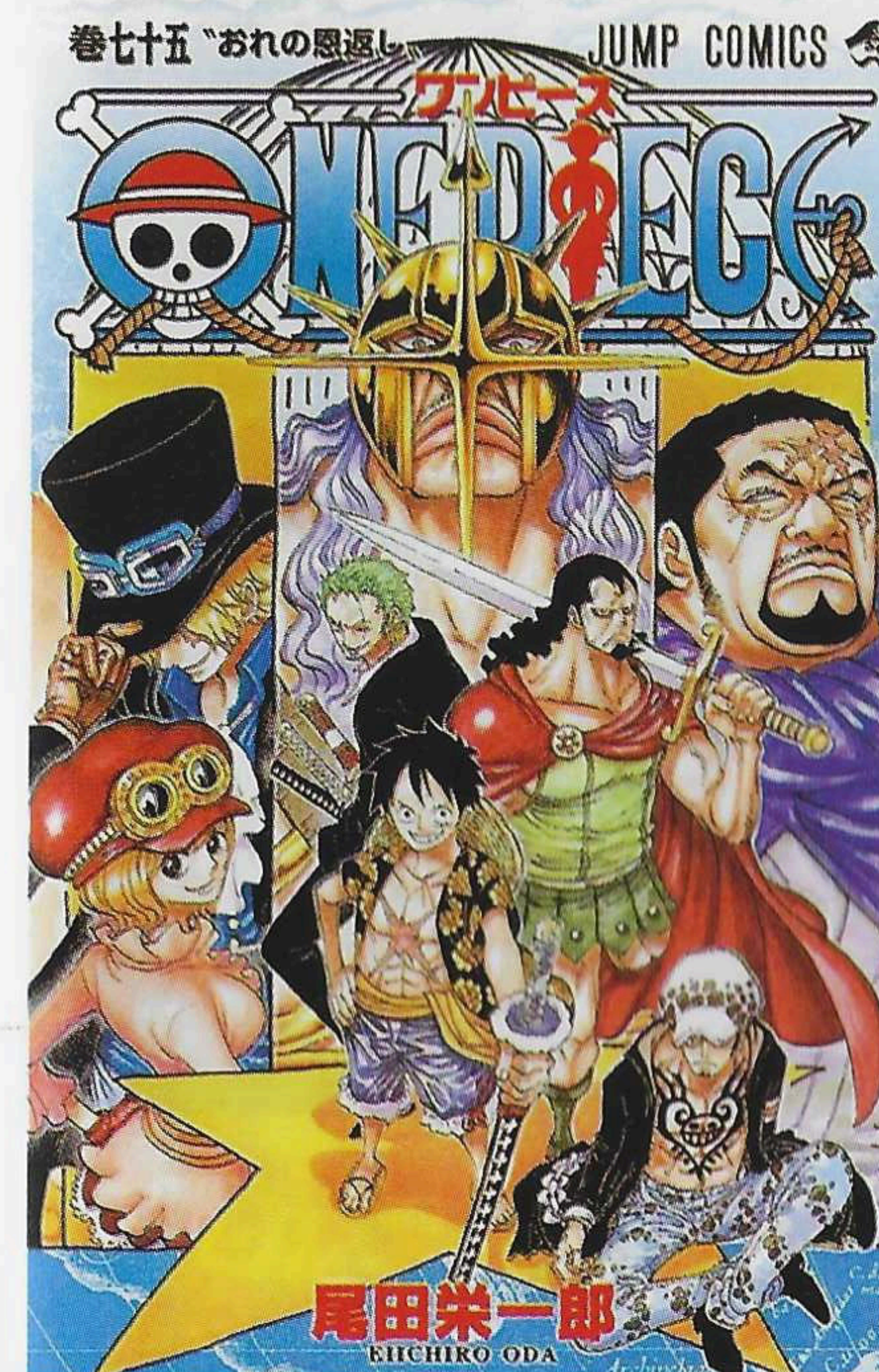
J-MUSIC MASAHARU FUKUYAMA HUMAN



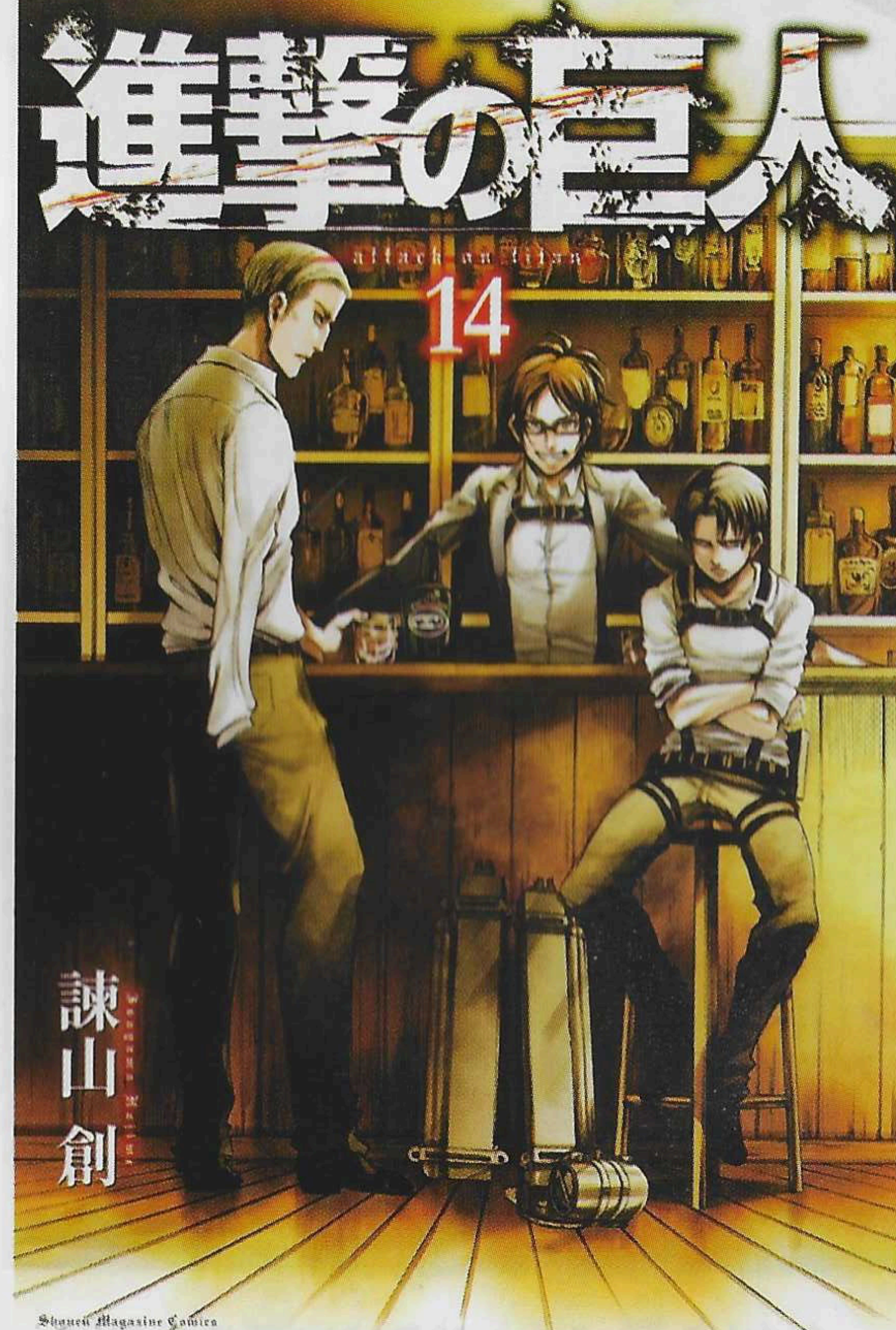
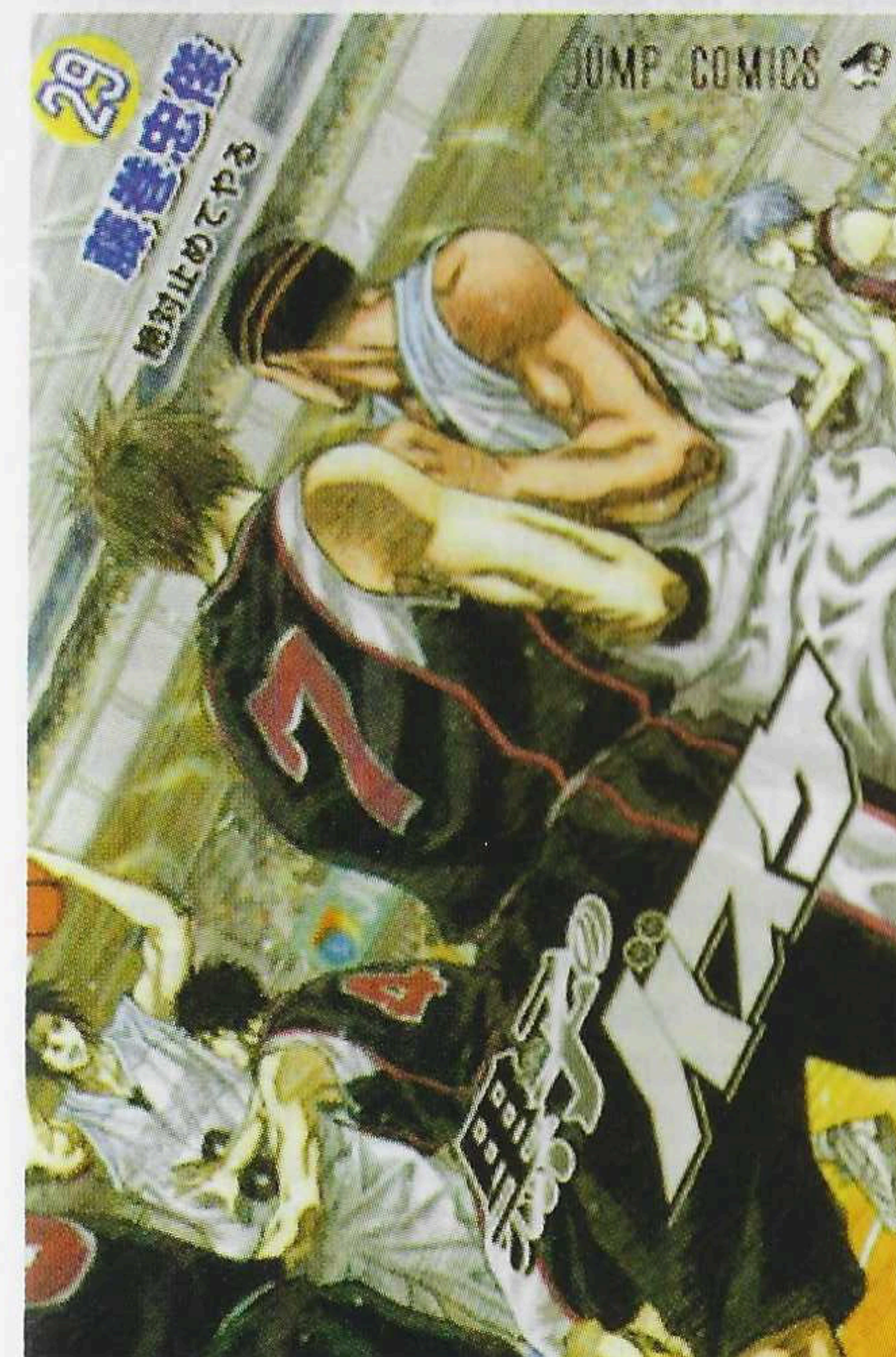
SANDAIME J SOUL BROTHERS THE BEST / BLUE IMPACT



MANGA ONE PIECE



KUROKO'S BASKETBALL



ATTACK ON TITAN ISAYAMA HAJIME

Our last year's top anime's manga counterpart *Attack on Titan* took the number one spot when it sold more than 8 million copies in the first half of 2014. Following its famed success as a manga are its anime, movie and live-action adaptation, with some of which are released this year.

Hajime Isayama, its creator, has brought freedom to a higher level when he brought the Titans to life and Eren and his people to bring them down. Fantasy and horror come as one pack with action in this great mission!

Now only top 2, Eiichiro Oda's *One Piece* gathered 4.9 million copies in the first half of 2014. While the fan-favorite, *Kuroko's Basketball* takes third place after it has sold 4.6 million copies in Japan alone.



LIUI AQUINO PHILIPPINES

Most popular in his cosplay as Hiccup of *How to Train Your Dragon*, Liui began his career in 2001 with the characters of Sanji (*One Piece*) and Jack Frost (*Rise of the Guardians*). Not only does Liui have the face that calls attention, he also has skills in props-making. These things about Liui are all part of the biggest asset that he has, which is his attitude.

With great appreciation for his fans, Liui becomes our biggest bet for our local cosplay. Even though he does not often go to conventions, he makes every appearance a picture perfect moment with his group selfies! He even took great efforts to be with his fans for hours of magazine signing this October at the Cosplay Mania.

So, a sweet guy with a sweet face, how's that for the local cosplayer of 2014?

C O S P LOCAL



ASHLEY MISAKI

It goes without saying that big things come from where we least expect it, but in this case, we did expect a little girl to pave the way for redefining cosplay as a source of youth and vitality.

It is no other than Ashley Misaki who takes our next top spot!

Despite Ashley's young age, she has been cosplaying for more than three years like Liui. Her expertise shows as she has gathered numerous awards in competitions. She cosplays a variety of characters, ranging from lolitas to action heroines and from girl to boy or even robots!

She's a star on her way to representing Philippine cosplay with a bang and we look forward to seeing more of her in the upcoming conventions!

A N E R INTERNATIONAL



KANAME ☆ JAPAN

From the land of the rising sun comes a cosplayer that's taken male cosplay to greater heights with a body type that makes even female cosplays go gaga over.

Meet Kaname who has established his international fame because the built of his body makes it easy for him to cosplay as most male anime characters. Some of his renowned cosplays were as Cloud Strife of *Final Fantasy VII Advent Children* and Eren Jaeger of *Attack on Titan*. This year, he graced Cosplay Mania as Mikoto Suoh (*K: Missing Kings*) with cigar in hand, which made a lot of fan girls squeal in enthusiasm and excitement. But just like the other cosplayers in our report, Kaname's appeal doesn't stop from his looks but goes on further with his strong passion for his craft, which includes his costume and props-making. Enjoying the international limelight for more than seven years, we believe he'll be doing more so from around the globe!



PINKY LU ZUN INDONESIA

It's high time that we get to know more about a cosplayer that we've seen for the third time at the recently concluded Cosplay Mania 2014. During the 2011 and 2013 conventions, Pinky was present as special cosplay guest. Her looks could speak for the grace and beauty that her cosplaying possesses, but more than that is her experience in the world of cosplaying.

Since 1998, Pinky has entered the world of cosplaying in her homeland, Indonesia, and became one of the pioneers of cosplay there. In addition, she joined the AFA Regional Cosplay Championship back in 2009 and has become a judge of the competition. The prowess of a master cannot be mistaken when we look (and stare) at the amazing pictures of Pinky. Fans everywhere will certainly be looking out for more of her in competitions!

GAMES

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS GARENA



Following the success of Rampage 2014, League of Legends takes top position in our chart. Being the most sought-out game in every gaming event this year, Garena's MOBA game actually has five million peak global concurrent players.

Next is Love Live School Idol Festival which is a must-have for all Love Live anime fans right now. Another application taking the otakus by storm (other than Brave Frontier) is Puzzle and Dragons!

LOVE LIVE SCHOOL IDOL FESTIVAL IOS / ANDROID



PUZZLE AND DRAGONS IOS / ANDROID



MEME

PREGNANCY TEST TWITTER



Twas October 2014 when our Facebook timeline was full of screenshots of anime but with a twist: they are all holding a positive pregnancy test stick. The Photoshop meme that started out small in 2chan took off when Twitter user @Gorxxx_ provided the public with a blank template image.

After that, everyone was able to place the .png file on a screenshot of an anime character. Technically, only females could be pregnant but let's face it, this is anime. Meaning even the male characters were made victim of the exploitable meme that is Pregnancy Test.

SPECIAL FEELING

A Japanese man interviewed on TV: "being in the snow with my lover like this immerses me in a special feeling. I like it." His lover prompted to blush.



HANAMI TRACE

Also known as "lonely gamer" this meme is about the Japanese event, Hanami. A man was tricked into saving their spot very early in the morning (5am).



WINTER NORAGAMI BONES



NISEKOI

CHUUNIBYOU DEMO
KOI GA SHITAI!



ANIME

Who else knows a deity offering his services for 5 yen per request? While leaning mostly on action and supernatural, Noragami creates an entirely unique experience to the viewers with the diverse set of characters, each with a past uniting them to their current mission of getting Yato recognized as a god. So, it's really no doubt that Noragami can take on the first place.

SERIES

SUMMER

SWORD ART ONLINE II A-1 PICTURES

Back in the game and on the screen goes Kirito with a mission to find the "Death Gun" who is able to kill players not only in the game but also in real life.

This sequel is well noted for its new character, Sinon, who uniquely exemplifies the new found vitality for the anime's plot.

More danger and mystery equals more action and more character development makes this anime our number one for summer!



SPRING NO GAME, NO LIFE MEDIA FACTORY



No Game, No Life is just as its title suggests but the life that exists for its brother and sister protagonists, Sora and Shiro, is one that is surrounded by many mind games, those that can be humanity's last chance to survive. Something about this life as a game theme tickles the audience's curiosity to find out what lies ahead in the hands of these gamers. With this trick, they land the top spot for Spring.

TOKYO GHOUL

Ken Kaneki takes on a challenge of becoming half-human, half-ghoul and holding on to his dear humanity lands him second in our list. Despite the gore and violence, what otakus find attaching in this series is what to look out for in the protagonist.



ALDNOAH.ZERO

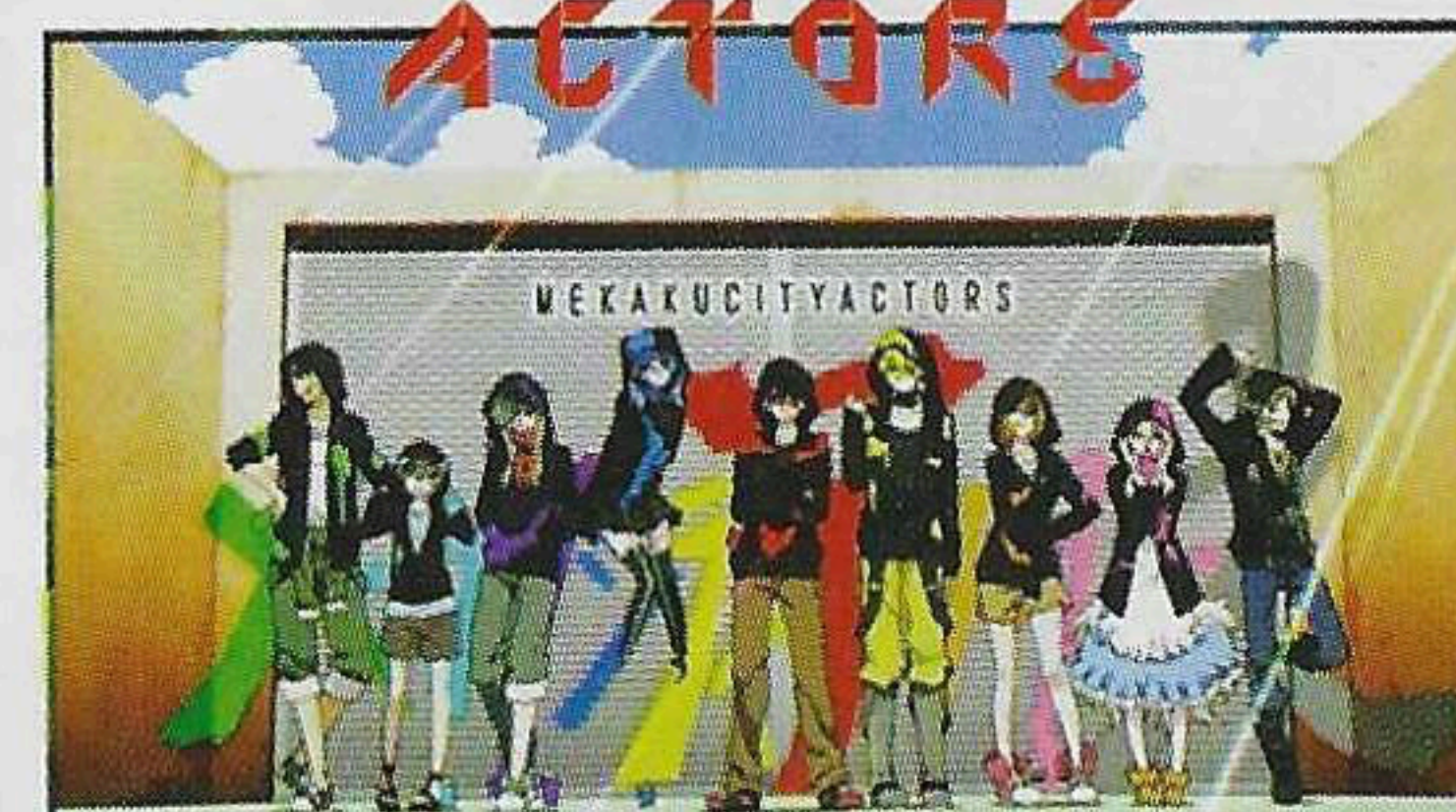
The Vers Empire has declared war to destroy Earth and the Terrans are in great trouble. Aldnoah.Zero gives justice to the complex plot with strong character development, cliffhangers, artwork and soundtrack. Fans just keep asking for more and more of this mecha anime!



ISSHUKAN FRIENDS



MEKAKUCITY ACTORS



THE HOBBIT

THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES

MOVIE REEL

written by james



The Battle at the End of the Road

All journeys end. Some ends are epic, while some are uneventful. But if you're **Bilbo Baggins**, your travels across Middle Earth will be concluded in a big, bloody battle that will decide the fate of thousands. Prepare for what is to come – **The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies**.

The third and final movie of The Hobbit Trilogy, which is based on the book of the same name by Middle Earth lore-maker **J.R.R. Tolkien**, the story will pick up where our heroes last left off. The dragon **Smaug** has barely escaped death from the hands of **Bilbo**, **Thorin**, and the **Company of Dwarves**, and has set his sights in razing Lake-town. To make matters worse, **Sauron** has returned to Middle Earth and has sent forth legions of orcs to attack **Lonely Mountain**, and only **Gandalf** can see him. These events will trigger one of the greatest battles in the history of Middle Earth: The Battle of the Five Armies. This will be Bilbo's last and greatest challenge yet, testing the little hobbit's courage once and for all.



Returning to reprise their roles once again is **Martin Freeman** as Bilbo Baggins, **Benedict Cumberbatch** as Smaug, **Richard Armitage** as Thorin, and **Luke Evans** as Bard. And once again, old-timers to the Lord of the Ring franchise will also be back, like **Orlando Bloom** as Legolas and **Ian McKellen** as Gandalf. With a tried-and-tested cast, you can expect nothing less that these big and beloved Middle Earth legends will be brought to life in the best way possible.

Also, with **Peter Jackson** still at the helm, rest assured that the quality of the film will match those of its predecessors, if not surpass it, since this movie will involve epic large-scale battles. And rightfully so, as the movie will be covering a very important event in Middle Earth's history, which will also serve as an important backstory to the original Lord of the Rings movie trilogy.

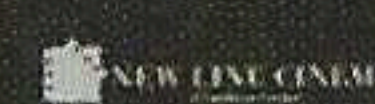
At this point, it's safe to say that it will be the film that will bind them all.

With grand battles, great characters – both returning and new, and stunning visuals that will make you feel like you're in Middle Earth itself, it's only fitting that the last film of The Hobbit trilogy is going to be a masterpiece that will make its viewers look back.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE LORD OF THE RINGS' TRILOGY

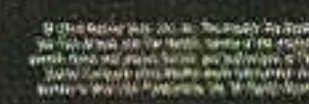
THE HOBBIT

THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES
12 DECEMBER 2014



IN 3D AND HFR 3D

THEHOBBIT.NET





For Nonoyama Botan, introducing yourself to others is nerve-wracking and it is her first step in trying to form friendship with other people.



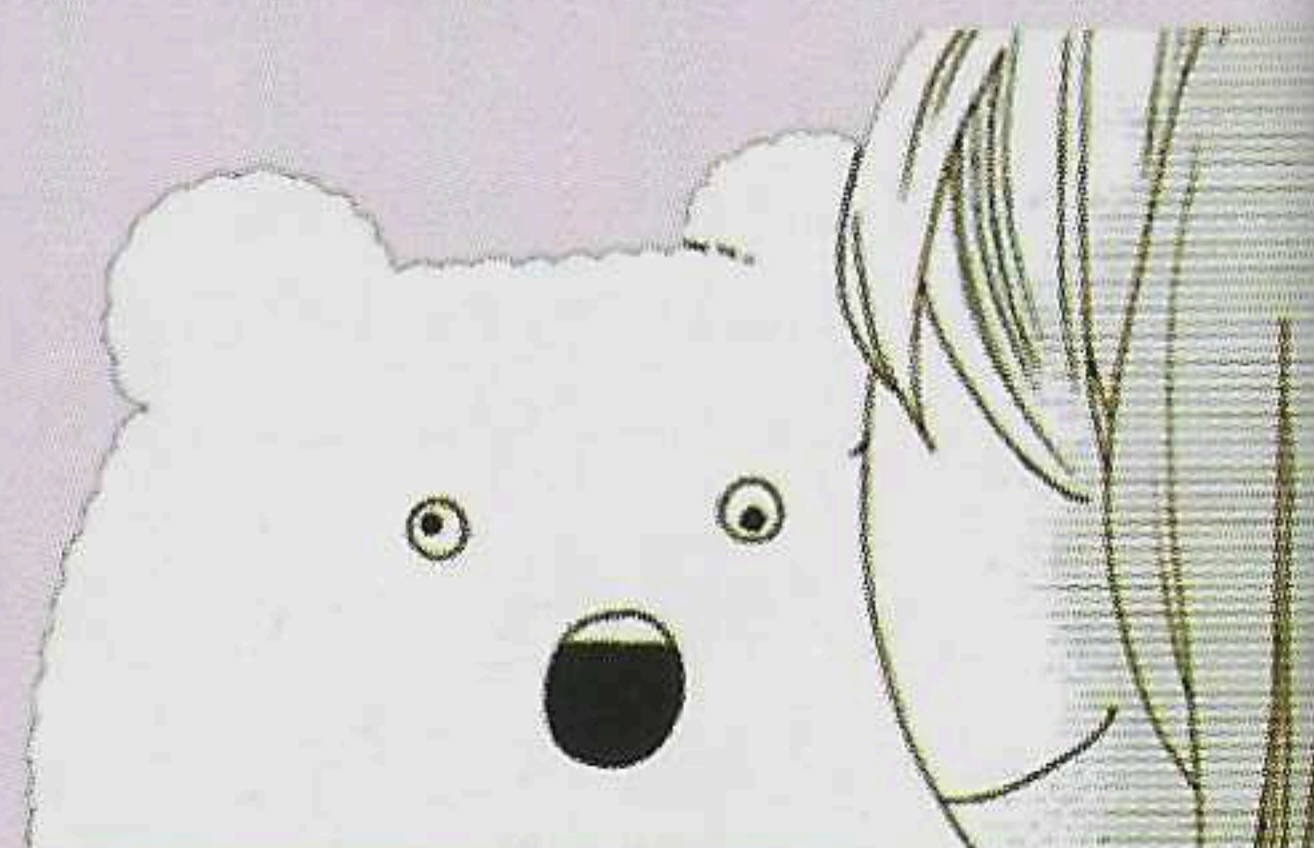
Since childhood, **Nonoyama** has a problem with making friends. Unable to make any friends, she keeps ditching school and even made a stuffed bear and named it **Nuigurumin**. Every time she wants to talk to a friend or feels lonely, Nonoyama would talk to Nuigurumin. When she got into high school at **Aose Minami High School**, she decided to be completely different. With hopes for this great change in her life, Nonoyama chose to stay in the dorms of the school, wishing to increase her chances of meeting people who can become her friends.

On her first day of school, Nonoyama meets an aloof guy named **Amatou Haruto**. He simply wants to be left alone. For Amatou, befriending people is a double-edged sword where you will experience the good aspects and then once you have become close, it will immediately come to you that there things that you do not like about them and you will be thinking negatively. These negative thoughts will be the exact reason that the friendship will end.



Is this just a chance meeting between the two? Or will it turn to the will it be fulfilling Nonoyama's wish to make friends and fall in love?

Taihen Yoku Dekimashita is a newly serialized manga by **Margaret**, a shoujo manga magazine that is being published by **Shueisha** in Japan. The manga was released last August 5, 2014. This is the new work by the manga artist, **Zakuri Sato**, who is also known for her works like **Mairunovich** and **Obaka-chan**, **Koigatariki**.



Dungeon ni Deai o Motomeru no wa Machigatte Iru Darou ka Gaiden - Sword Oratoria is an adventure manga that serves as a side story for **Dungeon ni Deai o Motomeru no wa Machigatte Iru Darou** or mostly known by fans as **DanMachi**. The manga is adapted from **Fujino Oomori's** light novel with the same title and is illustrated by **Suzuhito Yasuda**. The manga adaptation is still written by Fujino but is now drawn by **Kunieda** and is being published by **Square Enix**.

DanMachi is set in the labyrinth city **Orario** and the esoteric maze beneath called **Dungeon**. Though the dungeon reeks of animosity and death, it also serves as the center stage where many adventurers' claims riches, gains honor and a chance encounter that could lead to romance.

In contrast with the main story's protagonist, **Bell Kanel**, **Sword Oratoria** revolves around **Aizu Willenstein** with her quest to achieve greater heights. Aizu is a first-class adventurer known as the **Sword Princess of the Loki Familia** and is equipped with a special sword that never breaks called **Desperate** which has the unique property of **Durandal** or **Indestructibility**. Aizu is hell-bent on pursuing absolute strength to the point that she always charge head on into perilous situations with unwavering resolve.



DanMachi's main theme is very much like an RPG game where the players or characters fight monsters, gains experience, forms parties and raid dungeons. Though not the first of its genre, the series still has a sense of uniqueness that hooks reading and makes you crave for the next chapter.

If you are in search for an adventure of a lifetime, then you're in luck because **DanMachi** and **Sword Oratoria** will most definitely provide you with an exciting quest and unlock the adventurer's blood within you.



RomCom 4-Koma by: Mikelle

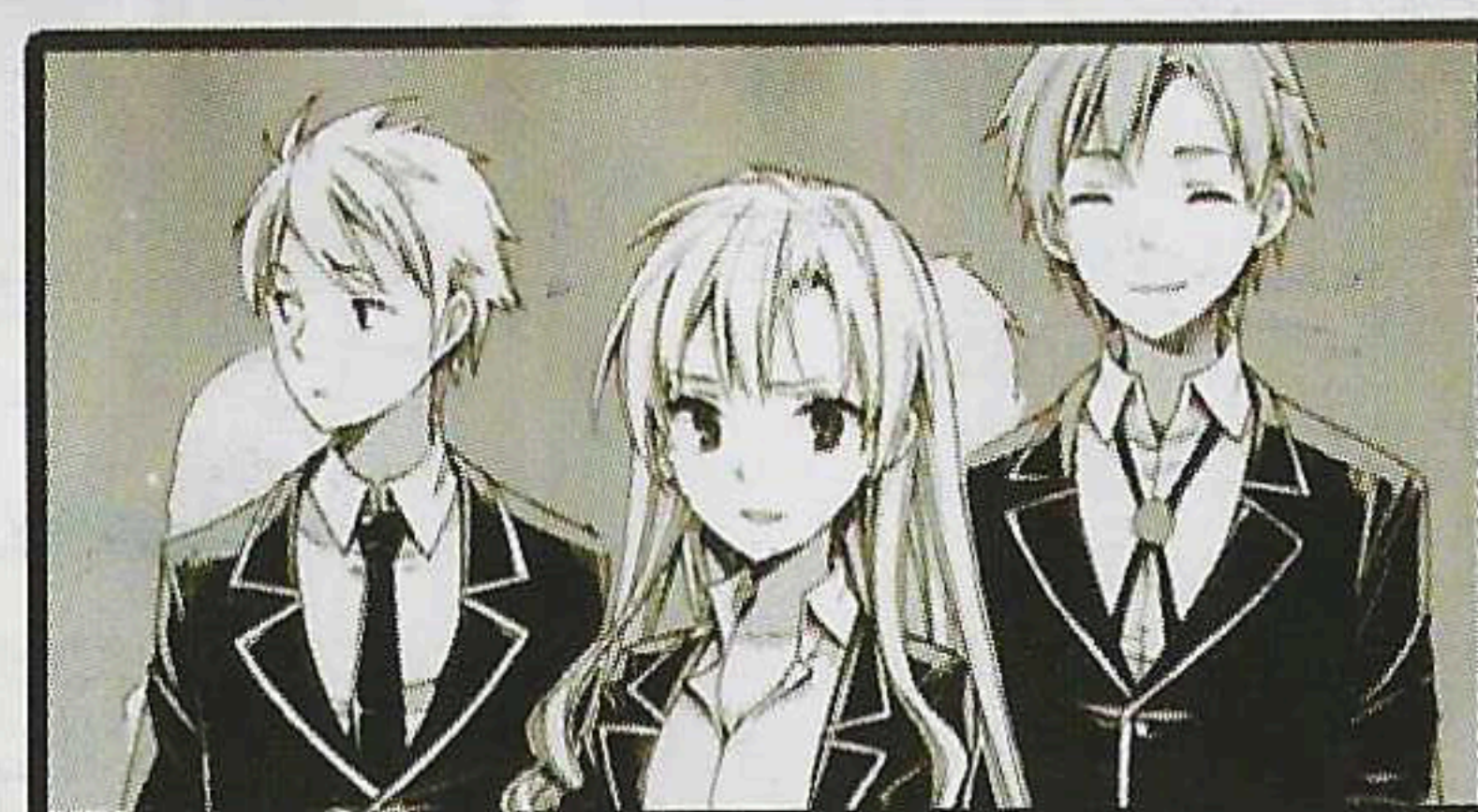
Yahari Ore no Seishun Love Comedy wa Machigatteiru

Public Service is voluntarily helping out other people by providing them with commodity and relief for as long as it is within jurisdiction. Students from a certain school took it upon themselves to form a **Public Service Club** that helps out not only students but also the teaching staff within their campus. The group manages to solve each issue or problem that they encounter, though sometimes their method seems to be twisted due to a certain individual.



Yahari 4-koma demo Ore no Seishun Love Comedy wa Machigatteiru is a 4 panel manga spin-off of its parent story; *Yahari Ore no Seishun Love Comedy wa Machigatteiru*. The 4-koma version is authored by **Yuuta Taneda** and is being serialized in **Manga 4-koma Palette**. It is originally based from **Watari Watarus** famous romance-comedy light novel series which also had an anime adaptation to which a second season has already been green lit.

Much like the parent story, the 4-koma version features the Public Service Club members; the twisted Hikigaya Hachiman, the proud Yukinoshita Yukino and hyper gal Yuigahama Yui as they reluctantly helps out not only other individuals within their campus, but also each other. The spin-off took out the heavy heart rendering plot twists and added more light hearted moments while being squared by more comedic relief.



Fans that have followed the anime series and specially those that read the light novel and manga would surely appreciate the 4-koma spin-off. Prior knowledge of the parent story is not actually required but reading the spin-off could lead new readers to add the main series to their read or watch list. Nevertheless the spin-off still delivers the same sense of humor as the original and will definitely prove to be a worthwhile read.

Itoshi no Karin

by Yani



Carnival, a place where families, friends, colleagues and lovers go together to bond and to have fun. Extreme rides, family rides, kiddie rides, and games, a variety of activities to choose from that you will surely enjoy together and cherish with your company.

Yutaka Hanagasaki is a 20 year old who works as a gardener at Fuegaoka theme park. He secretly admires their theme park's mascot, **Merun-chan** who is popular in the park. They ride on the same bus going home however, he doesn't have the courage to speak to her. Until one day, it was raining hard and Merun-chan doesn't have an umbrella so she ran all the way to the bus stop. When they arrive at her stop, Yutaka picked up the courage to talk to her to offer his umbrella but unfortunately, passed out because his fever.

When he woke up, he finds himself at the house of Merun-chan. Merun-chan gave him her real name, **Karin Kawai**. After that incident, they have decided to call each other by first name and they also have interactions and conversations with each other. Will Yutaka be able to tell Karin how he really feels about her or is he contented with their interactions?

Itoshi no Karin is an ongoing Japanese manga written and illustrated by **Horiizumi Inko**. It was first published last April 2013 and was serialized by **Manga Time Kirara Forward**.



A cute love story where a guy idolizes a girl. Also it turns out that Karin is a nice girl even though she is popular. And even though Yutaka has his awkward moments due to the fact that he admires Karin, she is nice enough to laugh it off and cheer him up.

Highly recommended manga if you're looking for a slice of life manga blended with romance genre then we recommend this~ Let's follow Yutaka and Karin's story as it progresses on **Itoshi no Karin**!



LIVE ACTION

Blaze the Blue Days

Aoi Honoo Live Action

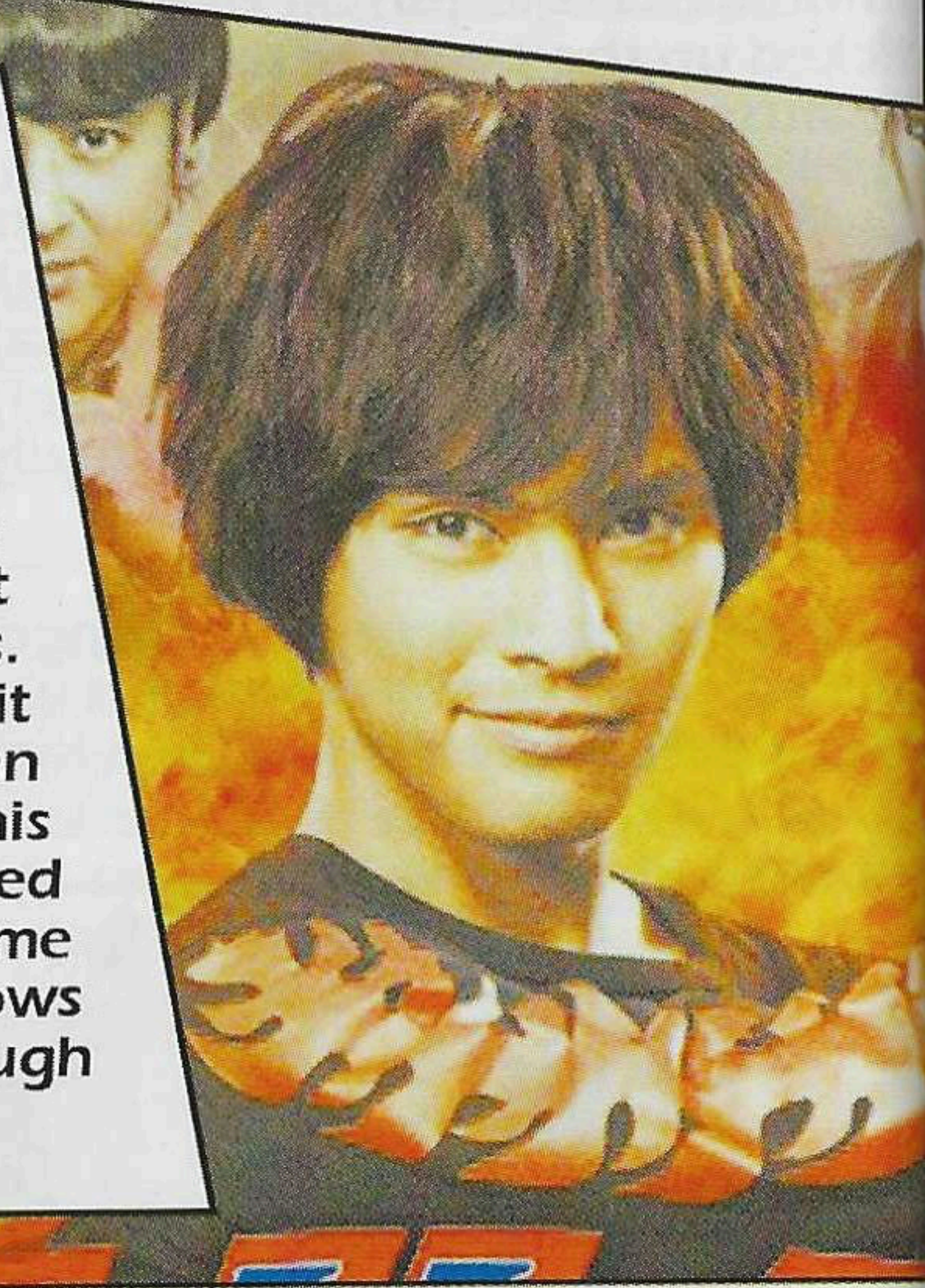
by: lizac 3.0

Have you ever wondered how the early life of your favorite mangaka (manga artist) had been? Of course, even before they were able to sell millions of copies of their masterpieces, they were unpopular and unnamed at some point in their lives. They probably hit the rock bottom first before going on top. It's surely a hard life to get into the art world where everyone is supposed to be unique and creative.

Mangaka are also people like us who have dreamt big, although not all were successful. There's entering college, mingling with college classmates, competing with extremely talented college classmates and realizing the ultimate dream. And there's them, our beloved manga artist, in the middle of the dark room with just a small spotlight acknowledging their presence. They have a love-hate relationship with art but basically, they're married to it.

How is a mangaka born?

Kazuki Shimamoto dared to make an autobiographical manga of his earlier days in art college where he passionately built his dream as a manga artist. As embodied by the enthusiastic protagonist Moyuru Honoo, Shimamoto-sensei narrates some of his experiences in a comical way in the manga "Aoi Honoo" (Blue Blazes). It is a manga written and illustrated by Kazuki Shimamoto, and this year, a live-action adaptation has been produced. It aired from July to October 2014 having 11 episodes. Just recently, it created a buzz in social media where it was roughly associated with the manga "Gekkan Shoujo Nozaki-kun", about a shoujo mangaka and his assistant. And at the height of it, Aoi Honoo appeared out of nowhere! From there, people have become interested about this certain live action drama that shows the funny representation of anime expressions through its avid mangaka protagonist.



Set in the 1980's where the spirit of artistry is alive in Japan, Moyuru Honoo is a first year art college student who aims to show everyone his artistic skill through anime direction and manga. The class he belongs to is tasked to make a flip book as their first assignment. Overly confident with his abilities, Moyuru thinks the awesome flip book he made would put him in the limelight, not knowing that a certain Hideaki Anno in class would burst his bubble and send him toppling down. The series revolves around Moyuru obsessing over how he could beat Hideaki Anno. Yes, he is no other than the prodigy behind Neon Genesis Evangelion.

Plot 9/10

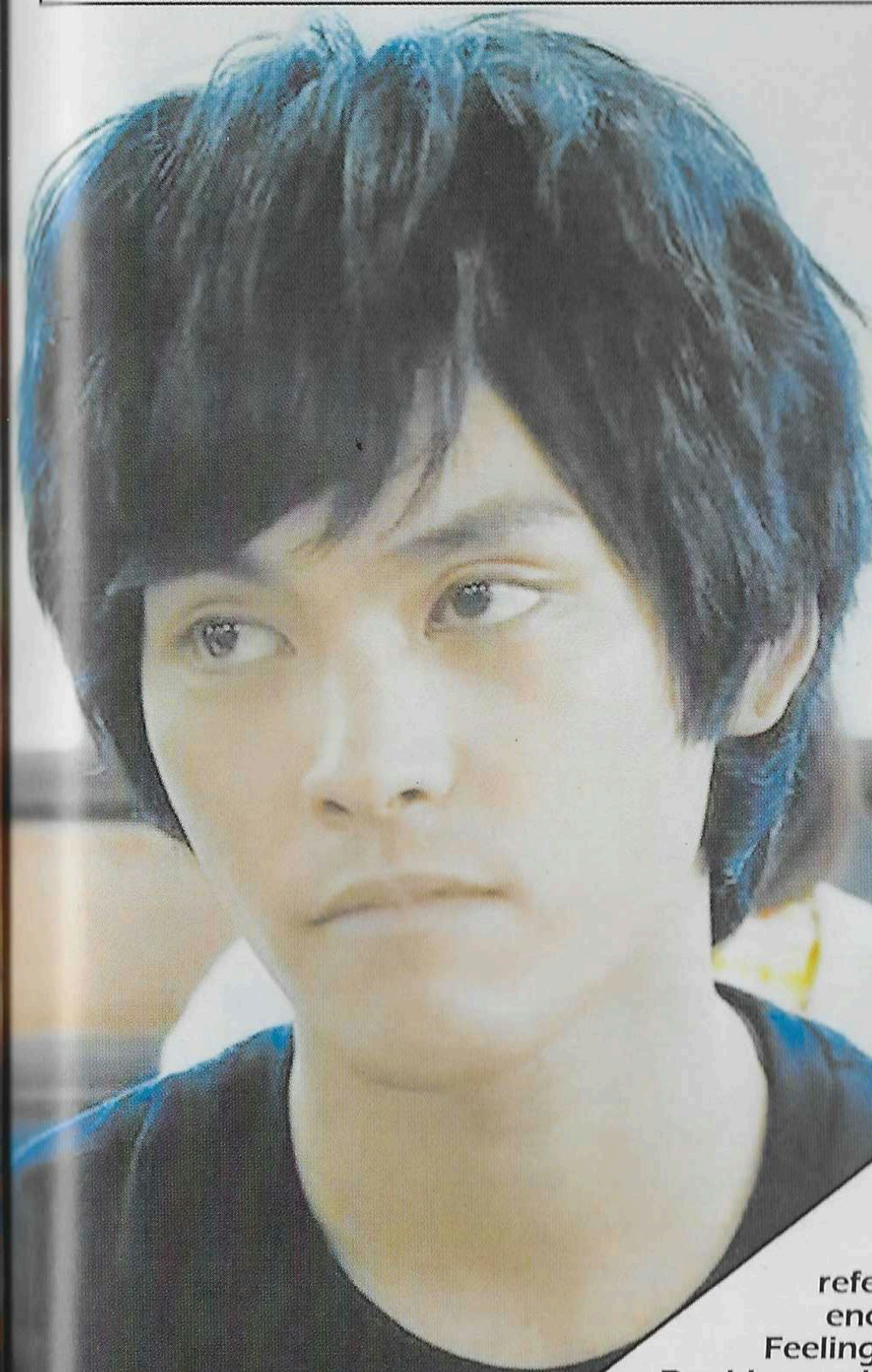
It's amazing to see some of the notable mangaka of our generation portrayed in a funny live action series. It's not hard to imagine that mangaka are robot-like because of their ability to fully concentrate on their tasks. But this series showed a different perspective that mangaka lets loose from time to time.

Don't be too disappointed if you find that the characters don't really talk much about being an otaku here. There are references here and there, but it's definitely not the highlight of this live action series.

The purpose is to show Moyuru Honoo's character development through meeting a lot of people, realizing his dream as a mangaka, and developing maturity in the series. Nonetheless, the hilarity would stick with you for such a long time that you wouldn't know if it did happen for real to Shimamoto-sensei.

Characters 9/10

But let's admit it; the main reason why people got drawn to this series is because of the actor who portrays Moyuru Honoo, Yuya Yagira. Indeed, his expressions are worth screen-capping for! He looks like an anime character brought to life with his extreme facial expressions that look very natural. For that, he has given justice to each anime character with the same personality as his role in a live-action adaptation. The other supporting characters are also worth mentioning such as Mad Holly. If you're not used to seeing a real manga editor, then this is it. Mad Holly is totally different from fictional manga editors depicted specifically in shounen-ai (ehem!) manga, so this is yet again another factor why Aoi Honoo is matchless.



Aoi Honoo is a great series that anyone would enjoy. In fact, you don't have to get all the anime and manga references. The characters are funny enough for you to continue on to it. Feeling happy and giddy? Feeling blue? Double your happiness and blaze the blueness with Aoi Honoo. It's a good watch with your family and friends this Christmas!



MOVIE REEL

written by Mikelle

Happily Ever After?

*Fairy tales seem to be a rite of passage for children everywhere. We've all heard that story before: the one about a princess, her prince charming who rescues her, and how they lived happily ever after. Have you ever thought about what will happen if things don't always end the way everyone expects? Prepare to have those questioned by the next big Disney hit, *Into the Woods*!*

The story centers on a baker and his wife who find out that they have been given a curse of childlessness by a witch. As a result, they set forth to put an end to it in a fetch quest which begins their fantastic journey. Presented with a quest involving the collection of items related to certain characters, the stage is set for encounters and adventures with other notable fairy tale names. Will this suddenly thrown-together team prove to be successful in lifting the curse? What seems to be just a fantasy musical soon ends up being more than what you expect. After this exhilarating ride, the characters are faced with this one major question: Was it all worth it?

An upcoming adaptation of the musical of the same name, *Into the Woods* promises to be a stunning spectacle. Expect to be brought back to your childhood, while facing a whole new twist in the stories. As if the mandatory Disney magic in a Broadway musical is not enough, the movie promises to bring together an all-star cast which includes Meryl Streep and fan favorite Johnny Depp. This is definitely not the fairy tale we all know, which makes it a perfect Christmas gift for the whole family. Make sure to catch the film on its release date of December 25!



The Witch

The antagonist of the story and the one who gave the baker and his wife the curse which keeps them childless. This makes her the one responsible for setting the plot of the story into motion. While antagonistic at first sight, she might just be hiding some inner frustrations and loneliness beneath that facade.

The Baker

The main character of the story. He is just an average working man, but the curse of the witch gets him to start his journey. It is in here that we all see that he is more than what his appearance seems to show. When faced with a challenge, he proves himself to be one very capable and badass adventurer.

Rapunzel

A beautiful girl who was locked inside a tower by a witch. Thanks to this experience, she grew up to become quite mentally unstable. Her role is important in the story, as she has some major connections with the baker, the witch, and in effect, the main plot.





GAMER'S ARENA

written by James

『Do it Like a Diva All Over Again』

初音ミク HATSUNE MIKU Project DIVA F 2nd

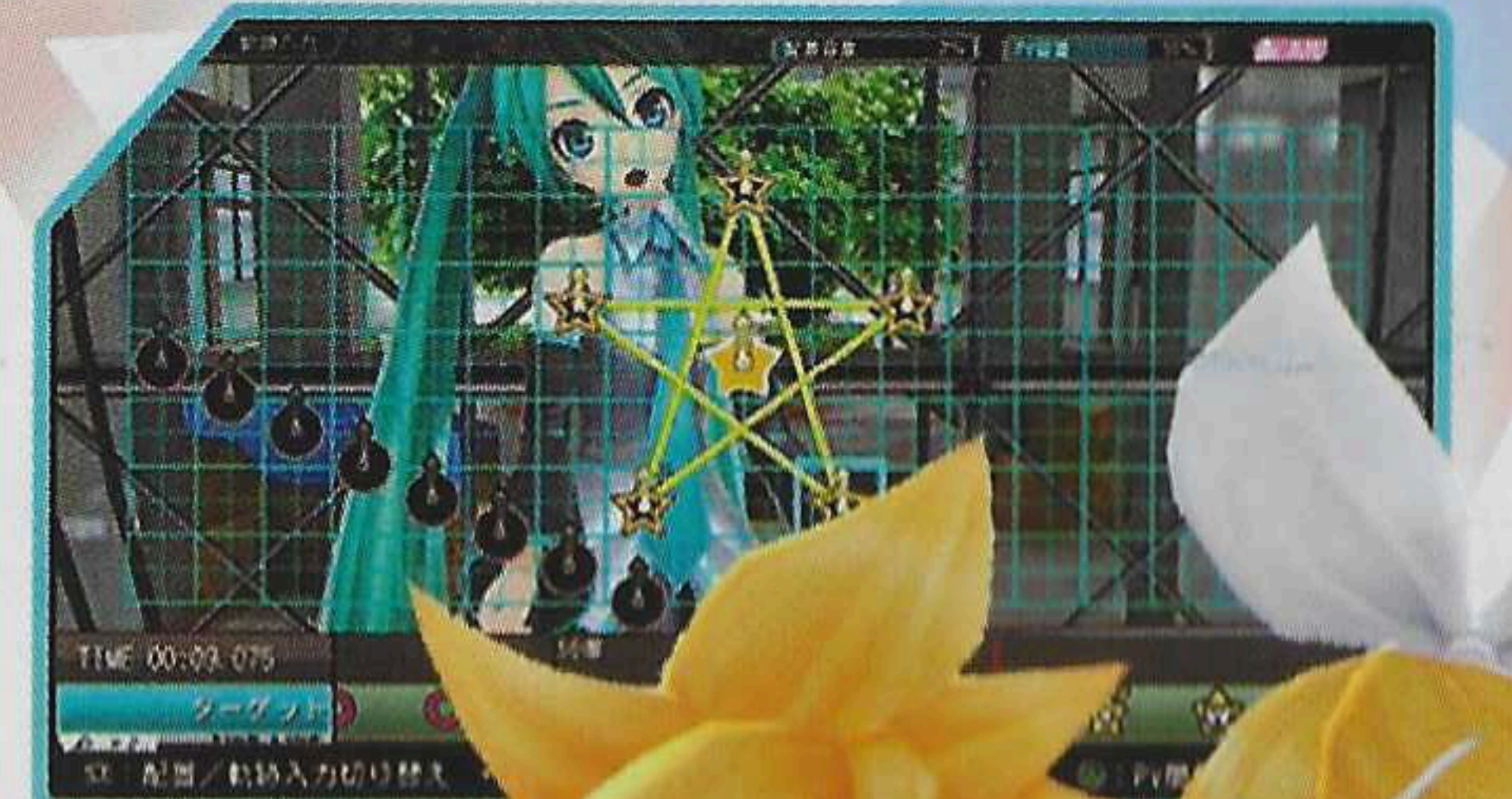
Our favorite aqua-haired twintail-donning sound synthesizer is back. Our kawaii music princess will once again be making electronic music on the PS3 and Vita. Get your ears checked and fingers on the ready – this is Hatsune Miku: Project Diva F 2nd.

This latest joint project between digital media company **Crypton Future Media** and long-time gaming company **Sega**, Hatsune Miku: Project Diva F 2nd is a direct sequel of the smash hit Hatsune Miku: Project Diva F, making this title the sixth release under the Project Diva franchise.

Just like its predecessor, your goal in this game is to press buttons at the right time, which is in accordance with the rhythm and the beat of the song. And just like most rhythm games, the music, which is an impressive collection of forty equally beautiful electronic songs from different Vocaloids – the eponymous **Hatsune Miku**, **Megurine Luka**, **Rin** and **Len Kagamine**, **Kaito**, and **Meiko** – is the game's greatest highlight.



But of course, the game wouldn't be called a game without its button-pressingly engaging gameplay. It can go from the Easy mode that you can bop your head to, to the Extreme mode that will leave you thumping on your controller like a music prodigy. Aside from the usual pressing, the game will also involve sliding touchscreen notes and double scratch notes, taking advantage of the PS Vita's capabilities. Lastly, the game will also feature various minigames, including a clapping minigame.

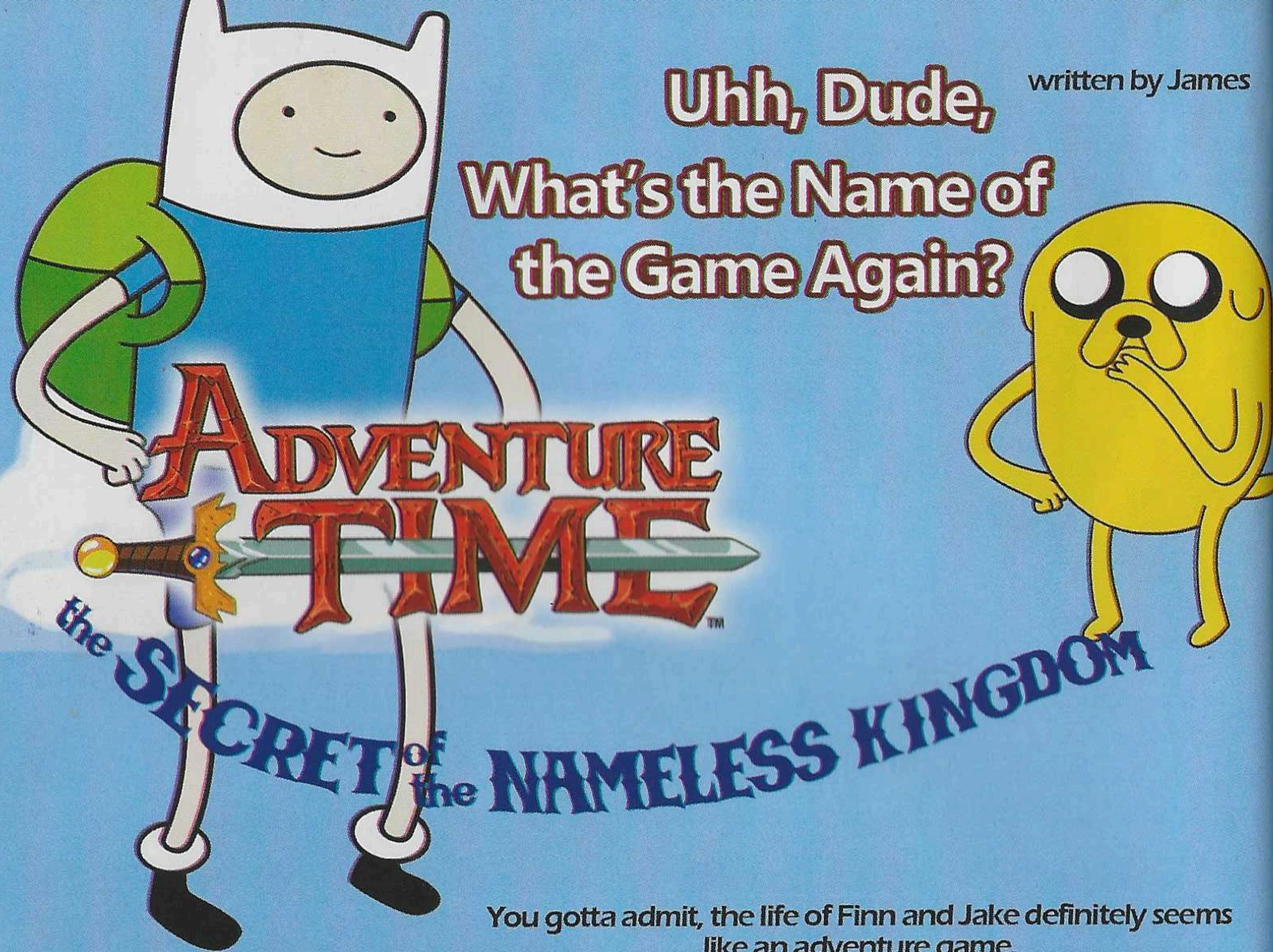


For additional features, the game also has DLCs (downloadable content), such as Vocaloid skins and songs. The game also supports cross-save between PS3 and PSVita, and can be played with the PSVita TV device.

So if you're missing some Vocaloid music in your life, go grab a copy for the PS3 or the Vita and play some good beats with the dukes and divas of synthesized Japanese pop music.



Uhh, Dude, written by James
What's the Name of
the Game Again?



You gotta admit, the life of Finn and Jake definitely seems like an adventure game.

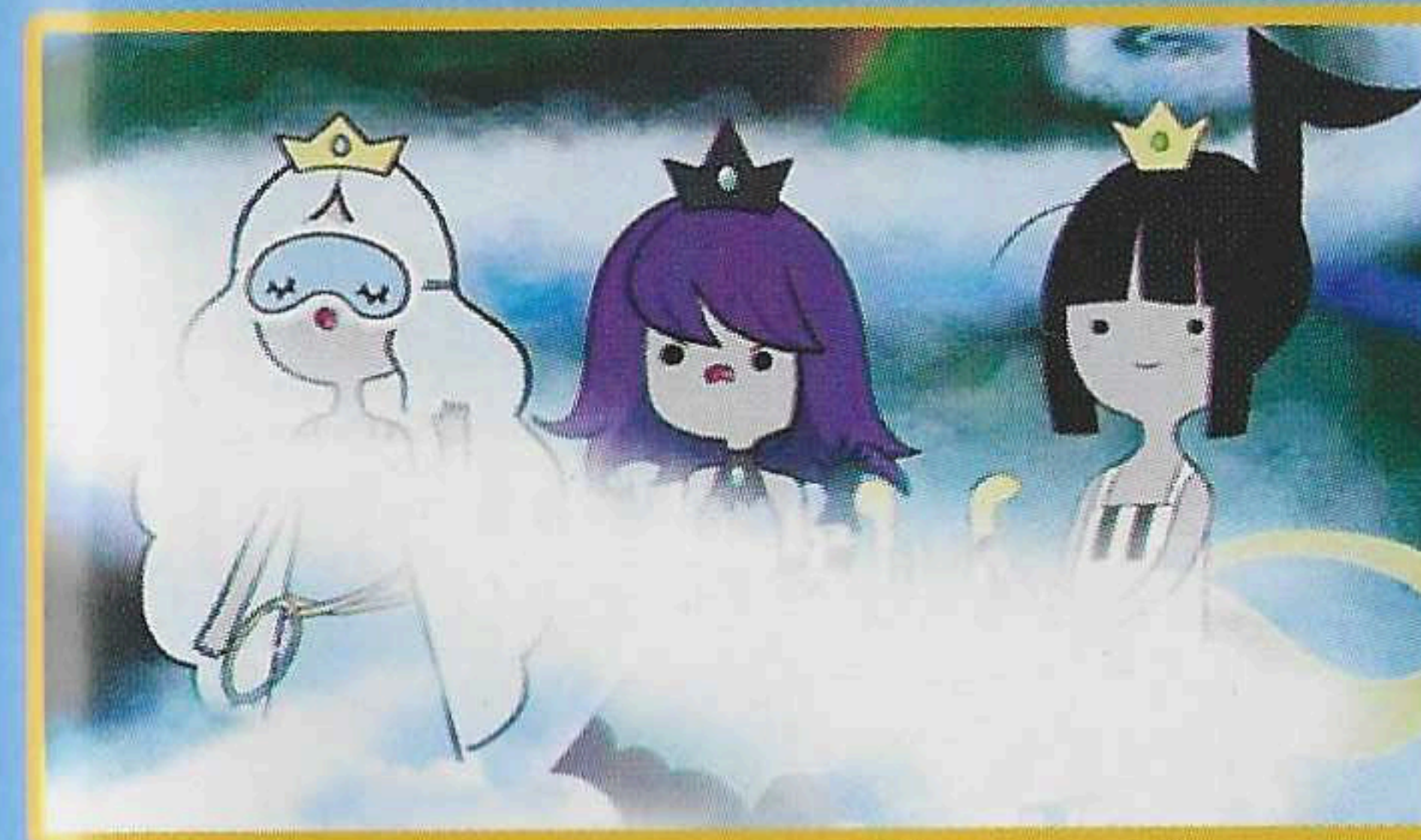
Well, whether you agree to that or not, you now have the chance to play Ooo's greatest heroes and best buddies. Help our favorite adventurers make a name for themselves in **Adventure Time: Secret of the Nameless Kingdom**.



This will be the third game to be based off the immensely popular Cartoon Network animated series, and the first to be developed by **Wayward Technologies** with the aid of **Pendleton Ward** and under license from Cartoon Network. The game will be published for the first time by Little Big Planet, and will receive ports for the PC, Xbox360, Playstation 3, PS Vita, and Nintendo 3DS.



As what the title of the game suggests, players will be playing as Finn and Jake as they embark on a quest to discover the mysterious secrets of Ooo's uncharted territories. The game will follow a top-down scheme, which means you'll be seeing entire maps and nearby enemies, making the game's focus on combat, puzzle-solving, and a little bit of platforming.



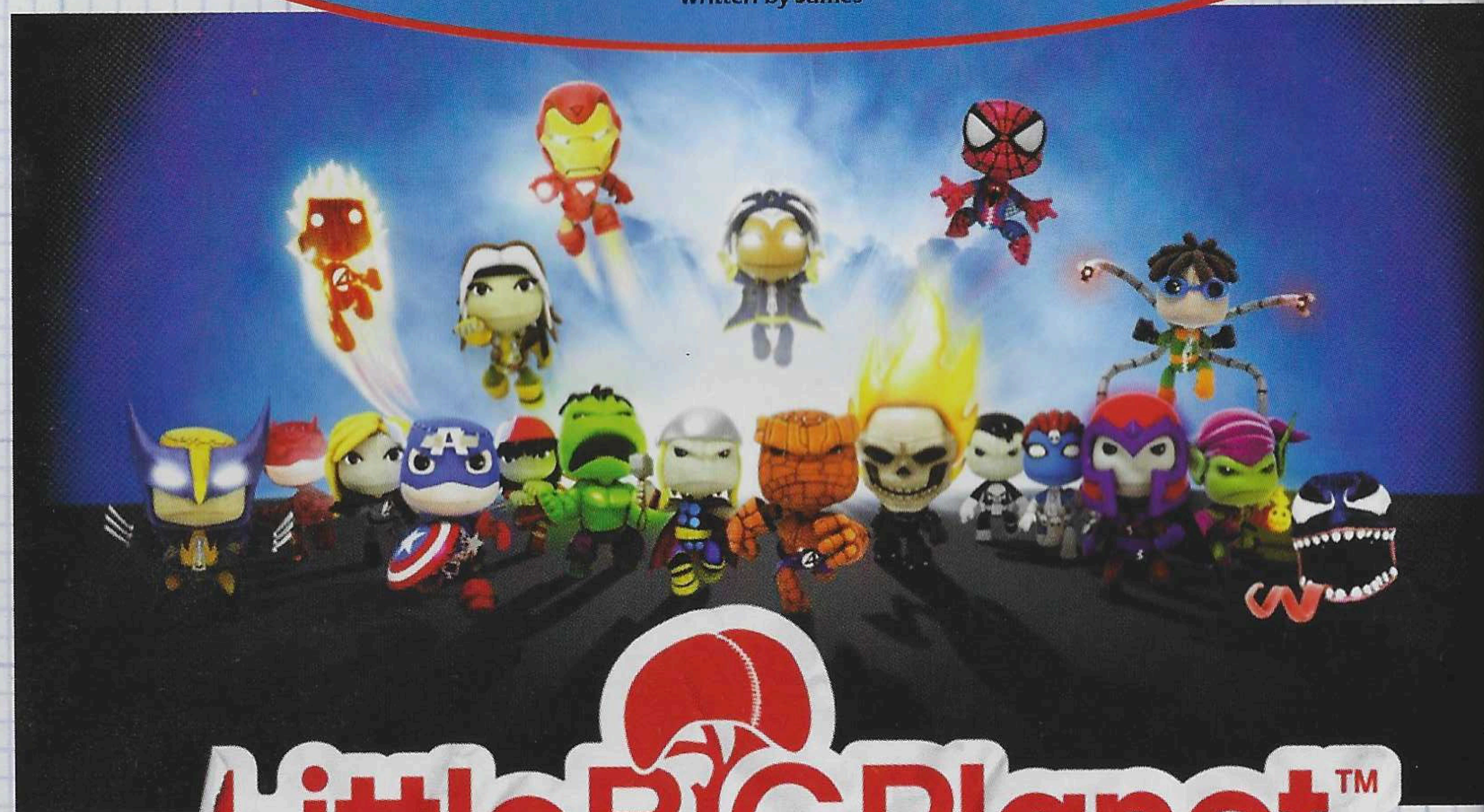
Since you're playing an Adventure Time, expect an awesome Adventure Time experience. You'll be meeting a lot of familiar faces, both friends and foes alike, as well as places that are memorable or completely unknown. Also, aside from our heroes, you will also be able to play a few characters from the main cast, such as **Ice King**, **Marceline**, and **Flame Princess** just to name a few. With this, you can now give your favorite character the chance to be on the limelight.



So don't despair if the show's credits start rolling, 'cause with this game, there's always a lot of Finn, Jake, and friends to go around. The adventure in the land of Ooo never ends; it just continues on other screens.

Pocket-Sized Heroes Pack A Lot of Punch

written by James



LittleBigPlanet™ PSVITA™

Marvel Super Hero Edition



Indeed, Marvel has become a big name in entertainment and pop culture. From comic books, they have branch out to other media: animation, movies, and video games. But now, this geek giant is taking over a big name known for its small proportions. Our mighty Marvel heroes will be going cute and cuddly in Little Big Planet: Marvel Super Hero Edition for the PSVita.

The game is the Little Big Planet people have come to love, with a lot of Marvel added in it. Now you can dress your Sackboy or Sackgirl with over 18 superhero costumes. Have fun in Carnivalia as you save it, this time looking like a Marvel hero of your choice.



And when you're done with that, you can create your own levels and games. With the game having a lot of Marvel add-ons, you can design levels to look like your comic book fantasies. And if you're not the creative type, you can go online and check out what others have created. There are also new Marvel-themed mini-games bundled up, such as **Avengers: Ultimate Escape**, **S.H.I.E.L.D. Interceptor**, and **Hero Rush**.



With a wide plethora of levels, designs, stickers, achievements, your hands are going to be as full as our Marvel heroes with this handheld gem.

From Zero to Hero?

by Nathaniel

Inou-Battle wa Nichijou-kei no Naka de

Did you ever dream of having superpowers? Well it happened half a year ago to the members of **Senko High School's Literature Club**. The members **Jurai**, **Tomoyo**, **Hatoko**, **Sayumi**, and **Chifuyu** somewhat developed super powers. Nothing seems to have changed in their usual lives upon getting their powers but they will soon know that they have to face people who were granted similar powers soon.



Inou-Battle wa Nichijou-kei no Naka de (When Supernatural Battles Became Commonplace) or known as Inou Battle Within Everyday Life or Inou-Battle in the Usually Daze is a light novel series by **Kota Nozomi** with illustrations made by **029**. Seven volumes have been published by **SB Creative** and it was later on adapted as a manga serialized in **Kadokawa Shoten's Comp Ace**. Recently, it was also adapted to an anime series by the animation studio, **Trigger**.

We've seen usual teenagers having powers to save the world but Inou-Battle takes it to a different level because of its comedic flavor. You'll expect every episode with a good amount of humor and executed gags. Aside from it having a good sense of humor, it is also have a believable side like their reactions upon getting their superpowers. A bit of drama is also added to the mixture, making it more enjoyable for you to watch.

The series is packed with fun and laughter that can make you want to watch more. Let's see how the members will handle their powers and to see if they'll be soon be fighting to save the world as well.



Assassins, Class is in Session!

By: Reikisha

Ansatsu Kyoushitsu

A mysterious alien life-form was reported to be responsible for destroying the moon. This yellow creature has so many abilities that not even superheroes will be able to defeat for good. But then, for unknown reasons, this alien with a 10 billion yen bounty on its head decides to become a school teacher for **Kunugigaoka Junior High's class 3-E**. However, the catch is that the whole class must assassinate him before their graduation or Earth will share the same fate as the moon.

Will class 3-E manage to assassinate the alien who calls himself "**Koro-sensei**" for the reward money or will they allow Koro-sensei to turn Earth into space dust in-exchange for his excellent teaching methods?

Students, prepare your pen and papers as well as your assassination tools and start devising a plan for Koro-sensei's downfall.

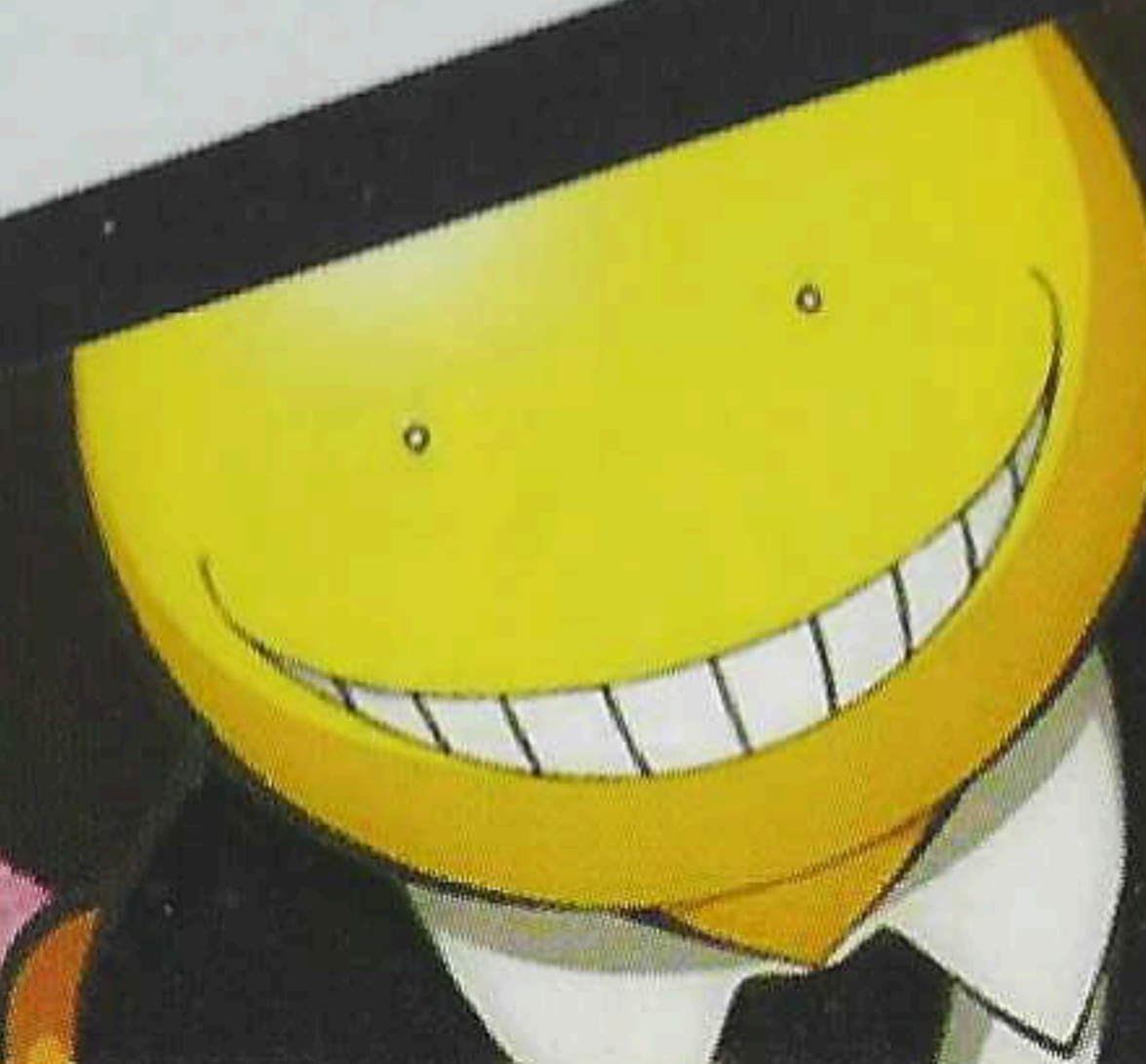


Ansatsu Kyoushitsu's story is focused on Koro-sensei spending a year in Earth as a school teacher handling a class of misfits in **Kunugigaoka Junior High** and his students who were suddenly burdened with a task of assassinating him before the promised day. Just like the rest of the manga series published in **JUMP**, **Nagisa Shiota** and his classmates display camaraderie even during the times they aren't planning to slay their tentacled teacher. However, what made this series from the rest is that 90% of the time, their assassination attempts are very elaborate compared to what we usually see in **JUMP**—putting **Ansatsu Kyoushitsu** in the same genre as **Death Note**.

Despite its theme, **Ansatsu Kyoushitsu** is not as dark we expected it to be. There are times when the series becomes light-hearted and funny, making the readers forget the importance of Koro-sensei's death if class 3-E won't take advantage of every opportunity they get in order to take him down.

All in all, **Ansatsu Kyoushitsu** is the perfect series for you to read if you want to get away from the usual straightforward battle manga series published in **JUMP**.

You might also want to check out the OVAs while waiting for the anime version this January.

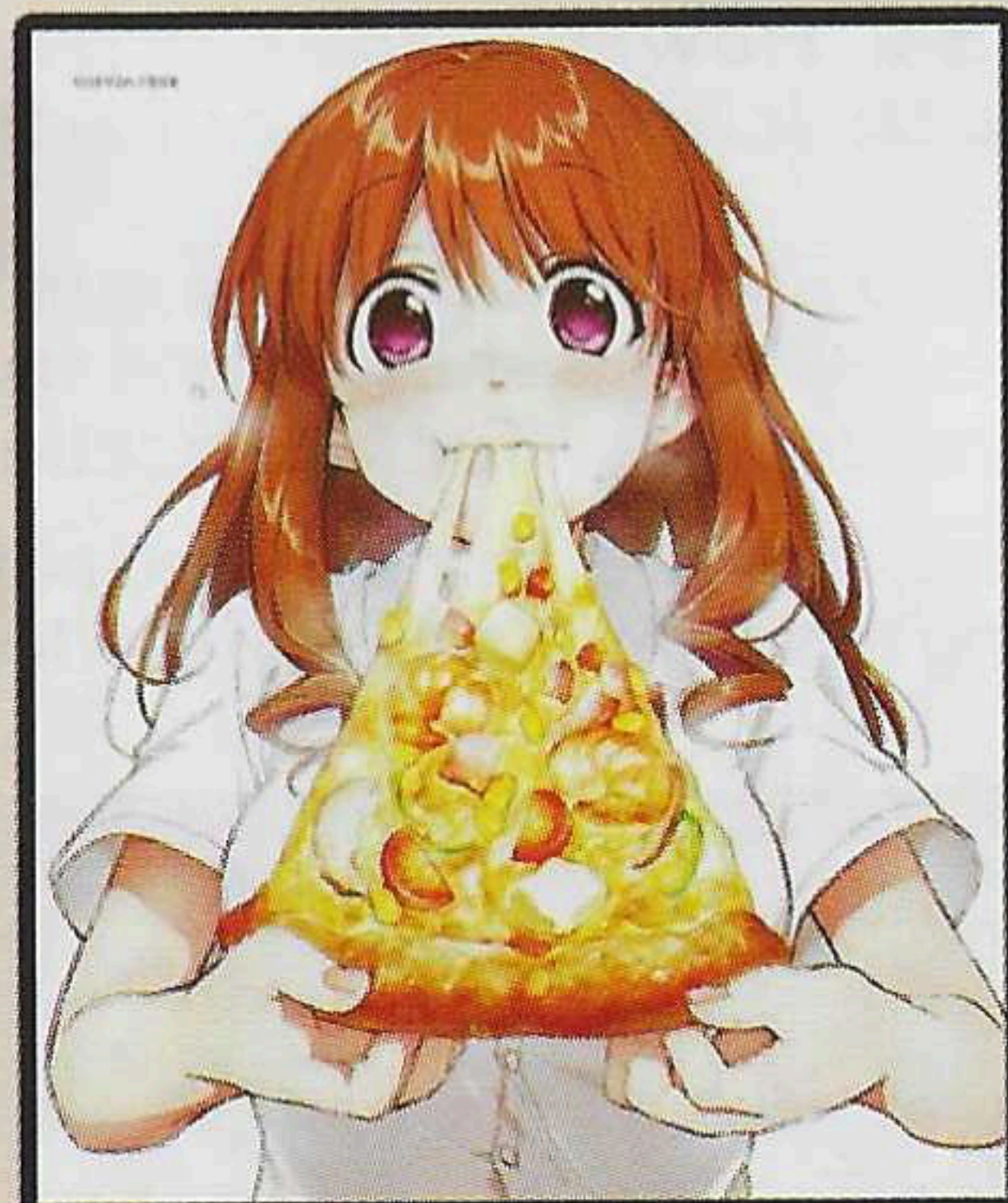


Happiness in Cooking

written by Ren

Koufuku Graffiti

Do you have a knack for cooking? The middle school girl, **Ryo Machiko**, got one. Through her passion for cooking and the cooks she makes, she forms friendship with everyone. Ryo's cooking skills in *Koufuku Graffiti* might be able to bring out your inner chef or maybe inspires you to cook some more!



Koufuku Graffiti (Happy Cooking Graffiti) is a four-panel comic strip manga made by **Makoto Kawai**. It is serialized in Houbunsha's *Manga Time Kirara Miracle Magazine*! and as of March 2014, three volumes have been released. It will have an anime adaptation that will be produced by the studio, **Shaft** (known for *Madoka Magica* and *Nisekoi*) and will be directed by **Akiyuki Shinbo**. Its title "Koufuku" is actually wordplay of two Japanese homonyms combined, one that means "happiness" and the other is "appetite."

The art itself in the manga is very detailed and the food cooked there would make your stomach grumble. You'll see some food teasers because the creator, Makoto Kawai, celebrated the adaptation of the manga with making some special illustrations for the site of Shaft's winter 2015 list. Let us see more of Ryo's cooking in the manga as we wait for the release of the anime next year.



Doujin Circle 101

By: Reikisha

Saenai Heroine no Sodatekata

Tomoya Aki is a hardcore otaku who prefers to engage in reading manga and light novels, watching anime and playing galge. He also works part-time in order to support his hobby of hoarding BD versions of his favorite shows. And then suddenly, as if fate was smiling to him, Tomoya's encounter with **Megumi Kato** forever twisted his life into a complex series of relationships, just like what most galge protagonists experience.

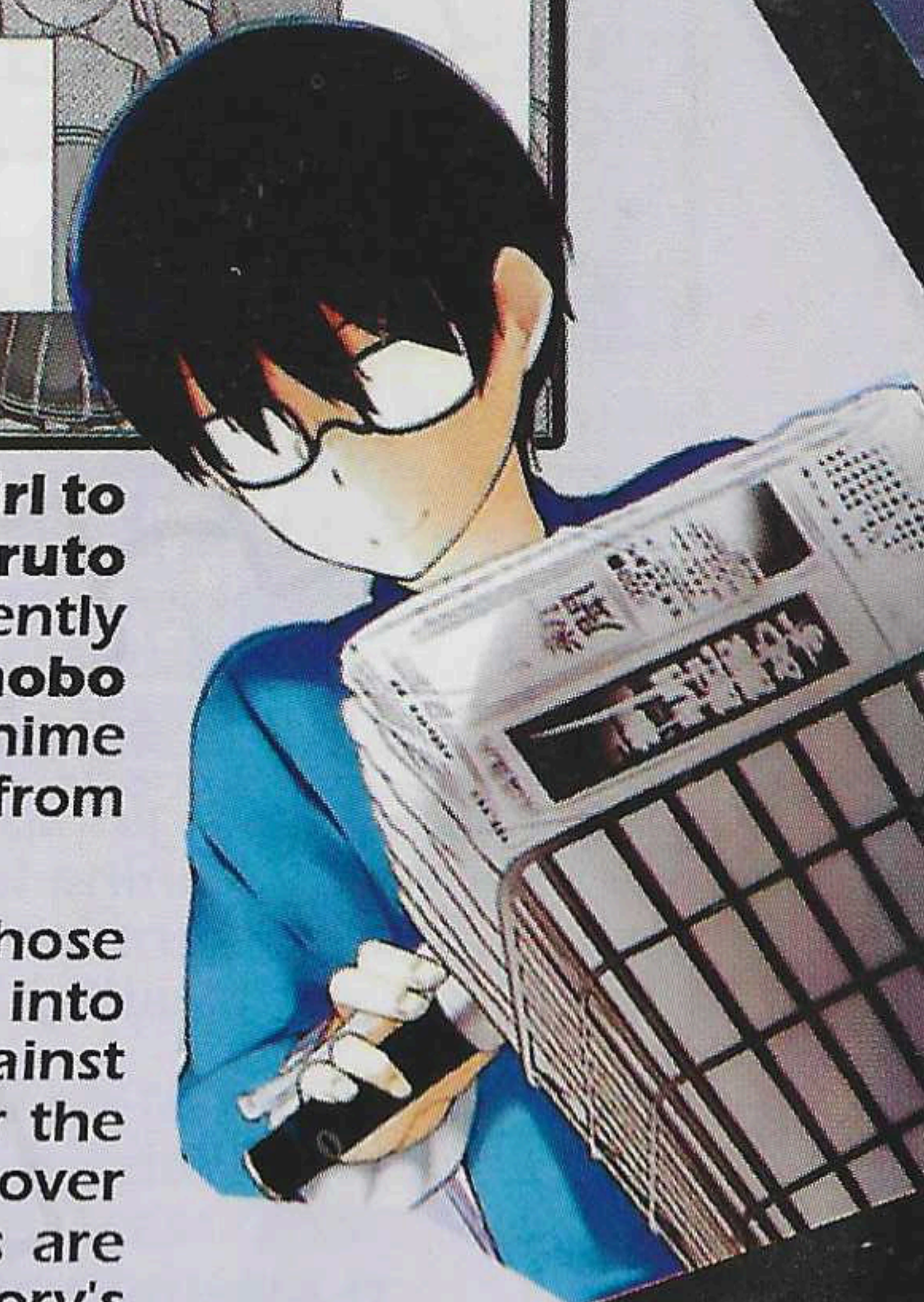
Five girls with unique talents and personalities started to gather around Tomoya. This fateful event marks the birth of the small-time doujin circle called "Blessing Software".



Saenai Heroine no Sodatekata (How to Train the Ordinary Girl to be a Heroine) is an on-going light novel series written by **Maruto Fumiaki** and illustrated by **Misaki Kurehito**. The novel currently has a total of seven volumes under the **Fujimi Fantasia Shobo** imprint as well as two spin-off manga adaptations. The anime adaptation by **A-1 Pictures** is scheduled to air starting from January 2015 for 11 episodes.

Saenai Heroine no Sodatekata portrays the harsh reality of those who belong in a doujin circle; the time and effort the put into their projects, the planning stages, and the competition against fellow doujin circles in anime conventions. The art used for the novel is the kind that will make anyone fall in-love with the cover at first sight due to how well-proportioned the characters are drawn as well as the way it's colored. Because of the story's theme, the readers sometimes can't help but imagine how will the scenes look like if the novel is an actual visual novel.

Reading the original novel or watching the upcoming anime version is highly recommended if you're interested in how doujin circles in Japan work in preparation for every conventions they participate in.

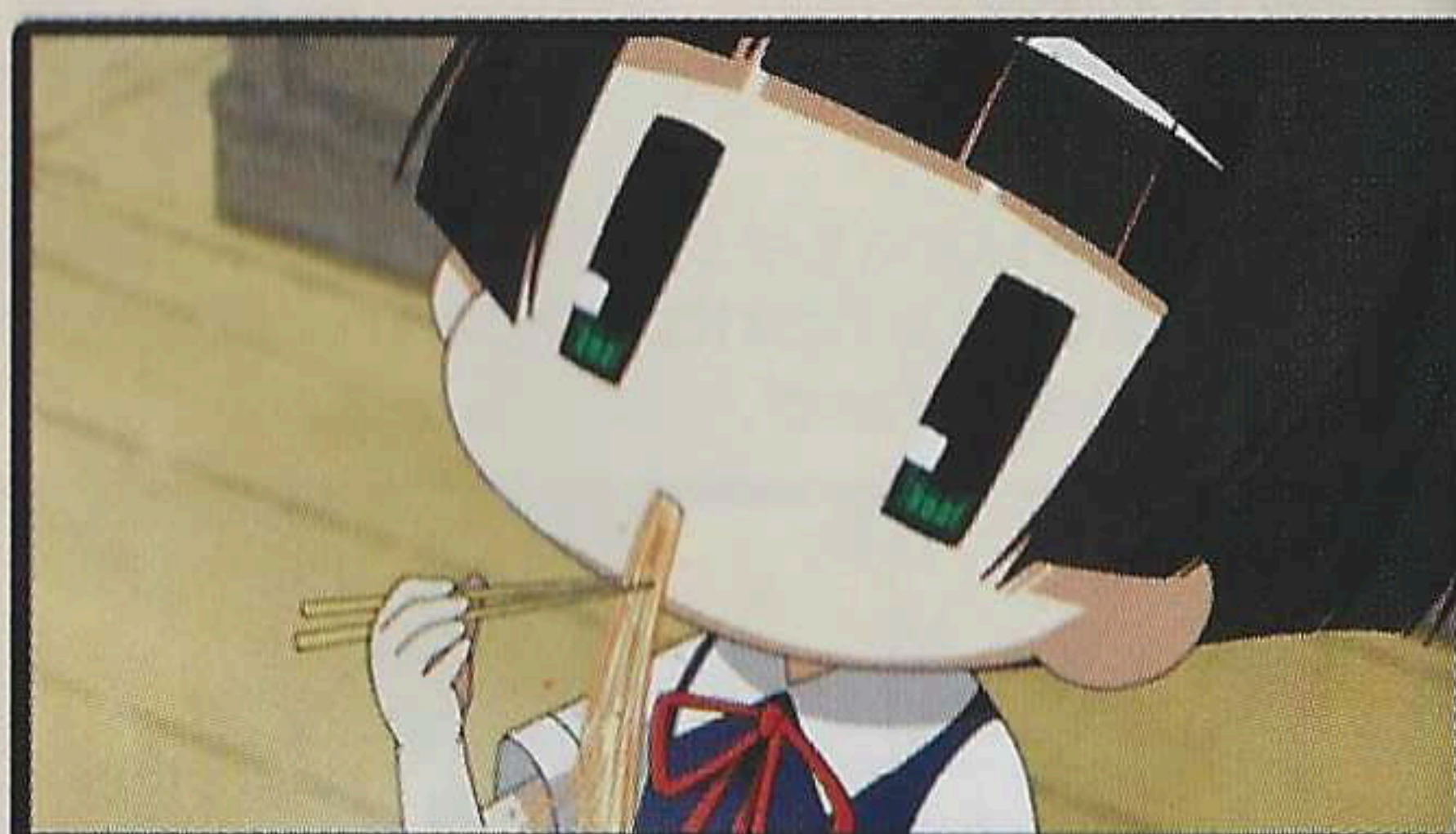


Get haunted by everyone?!

written by Ren

Gugure Kokkuri-san

Kohina Ichimatsu is a doll. Or so she says. She is actually an emotionless elementary school girl living by herself in a big house. She starts to play a game where she summons Kokkuri-san, a fox-spirit.



Cup noodle-loving girl summons Kokkuri-san through a seance game of the same name. However, Kohina is un-frightened and uninterested in him. This confuses the fox spirit and is determined to take care of her by haunting her. He is also determined to make her eat healthy 3 meals a day with 50 different ingredients and so he becomes the mother of the house.

As they get to know each other, they become friends. Sort of.

The anime reminds us so much of last season's Barakamon, about a full grown man practicing calligraphy and a little province girl. Handa Seishuu's voice from that anime is also the voice of Kokkuri-san, Daisuke Ono.

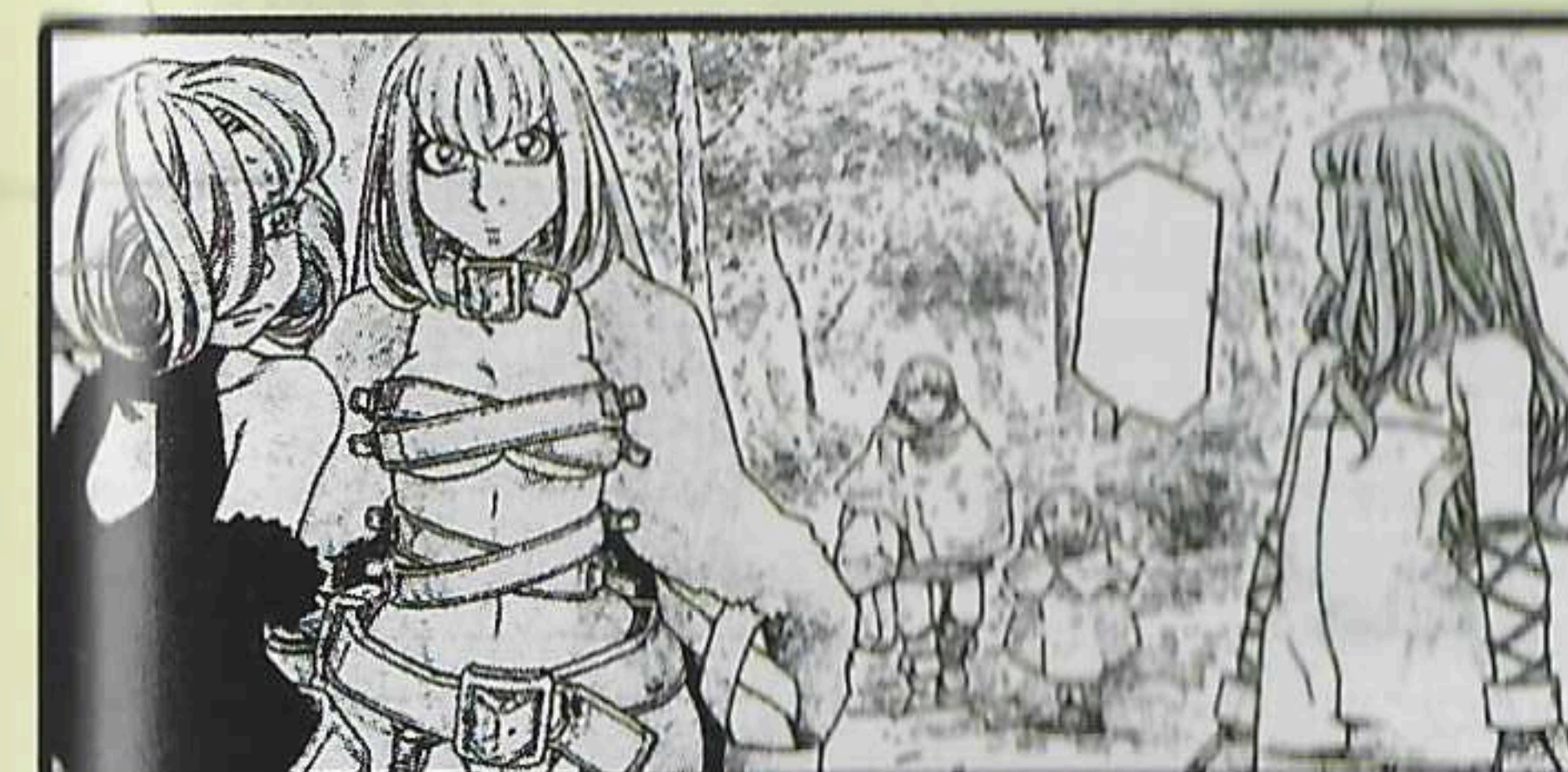
Gugure Kokkuri-san is adorable and light. The subtle background story make it even more interesting. Go and watch it!

Conjuration of Catastrophe

By: Mikelle

Junketsu no Maria

This story is set during the **Hundred Years' War** ranging from 1337 to 1453, where the **House Plantagenet of England** and **House Valois of France** waged a battle of dominance between the two kingdoms. History has recorded this century long event as one of the longest feuds and is a very important turning point for both countries. Hidden within the backbone of history, a young powerful witch actually appeared to stop the war all the while spreading utter destruction. This third party joined the fray between the two superpowers: a single entity along with two vassals that serves her. Let us try to relive history and find out what actually transpired during the war in Junketsu no Maria.



Junketsu no Maria centers around Maria, the most powerful witch introduced during the Hundred Year's War. Despite being dubbed as a heretic and an enemy of god by the church, she despises the art of war and does everything in her power to obstruct it. Maria is infamous for appearing unannounced in the middle of skirmishes and summons an enormous mythical creature that follows her bidding. Accompanied by her familiars; the succubus **Artemis** and the incubus **Priapos**, Maria would do anything and everything to get the odds in her favor. Ironically, Maria is actually what the guys from the church revere and glorifies:

a virgin.

Adapted from **Ishikawa Masayuki's** manga entitle **Junketsu no Maria - Sorcière de gré, pucelle de force**. Junketsu no Maria will be handled by **Production IG** and Directed by **Goro Taniguchi** who is also responsible for Code Geass. This historical anime filled with fantasy and comedy which is set to premiere sometime in January 2015.

Those that are fans of anti-heroes that possess overwhelming powers would surely enjoy watching this series. Mix in some history, a good sense of humor and some divine interventions; Junketsu no Maria is definitely one series that you should pick up when the new anime seasons comes around.



REQUESTS

written by Ren

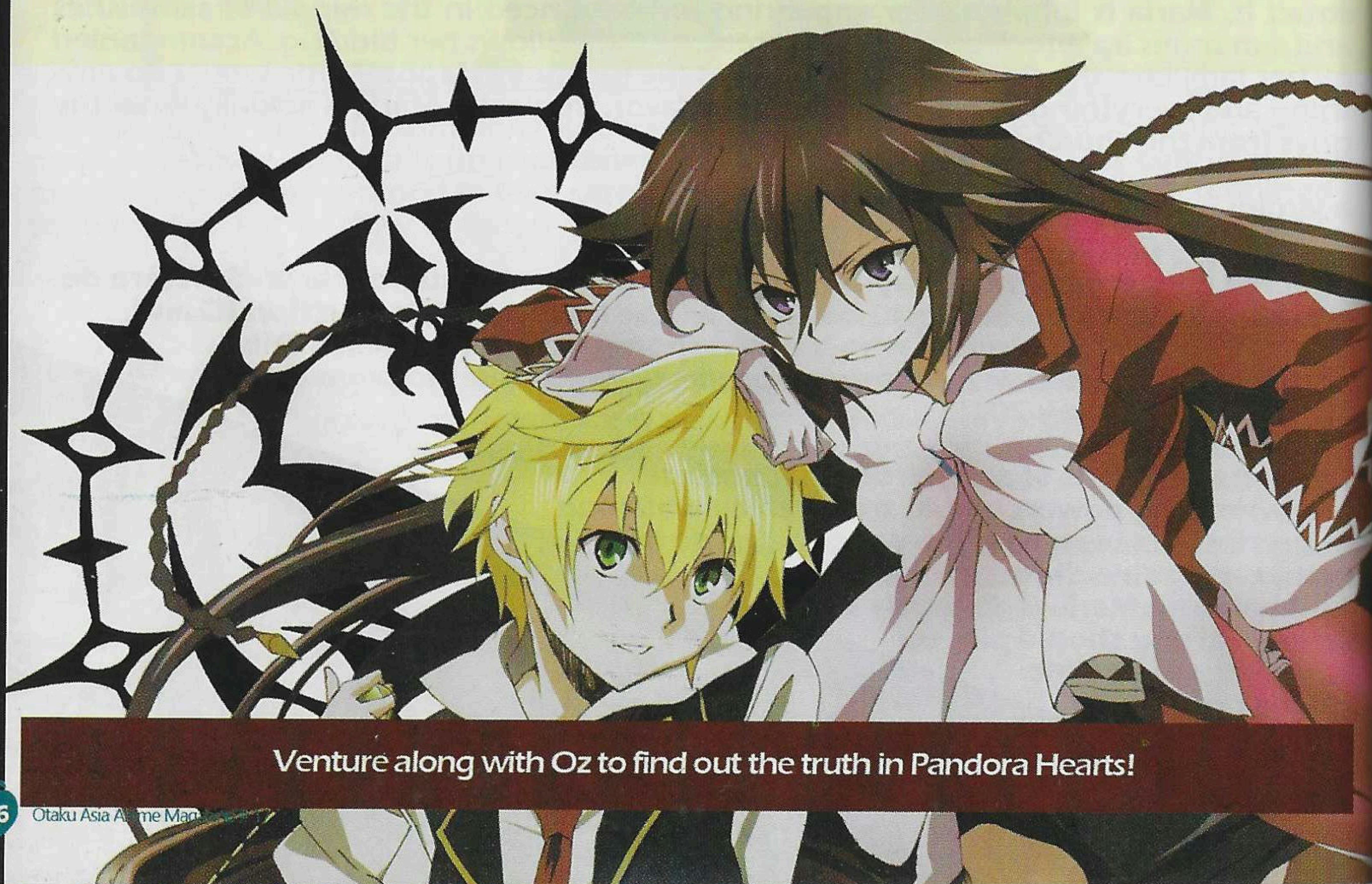
Pandora Hearts バンドラハーツ



Oz Vessalius is a member and the heir of one of the most prestigious duke houses. He lives his life as fun and carefree as he can be. When he turns fifteen, he must undergo a coming-of-age ceremony and unbeknownst to him, this ceremony would also change his life forever. He was attacked by a group of mysterious figures donning red cloaks and the cast him into the "Abyss", a place they say is for criminals, with them saying Oz's "sin" is his existence. In his surprise, a "Chain" from Abyss named B-Rabbit or as known as Alice saves him and offers a contract with him so as to free both of them from the dark prison. Upon escaping the prison, they are welcomed by an organization called Pandora and offered to work under them.

With so many questions in mind and with B-Rabbit's power with, Oz starts his quest to find out the truth.

Pandora Hearts is a manga series written and illustrated by Jun Mochizuki with individual volumes serialized by **Monthly GFantasy** and bound volumes by **Square Enix**. It has received an anime adaptation that was produced by **Xebec** back in 2009 and it also have a drama cd adaptation entitled **Pandora Hearts Drama CD** that was released back in 2007.



Venture along with Oz to find out the truth in Pandora Hearts!

"What would you want to be when you grow up?"
This question is one of the most asked during our childhood years. Do you want to be an artist?
A doctor?

With one of the benefits being capable of seeking treasures, why not include being a Hunter in your long list?



Hunters are considered as an elite profession in humanity. Being licensed as one enables you from seeking rare treasures and monsters to hunting down individuals. **Gon Freecss** began aspired to become a Hunter to reunite with his renowned Hunter father whom he originally thought was dead. He left home to begin his journey by taking the Hunter Examination and met three individuals who later on became his friends, namely the revenge-driven **Kurapika**, the aspiring doctor **Leorio Paradinight** and the ex-assassin **Killua Zoldyck**. They will soon face many trials and enemies towards the Hunter path with their friendship helping them out to succeed.



Hunter x Hunter is a manga created and illustrated by **Yoshihiro Togashi**, who was also the creator of the series **Yu Yu Hakusho**. It has begun serialization back in 1998 in the **Weekly Shonen Jump**. The manga has various adaptations, such as video games, albums and two anime adaptations (one back in 1999 and the recent 2011 adaptation).



Want to know the journey of Gon to become a Hunter and reunite with his father?
Experience the hardships of becoming one through checking out Hunter x Hunter!

CAPRICORN



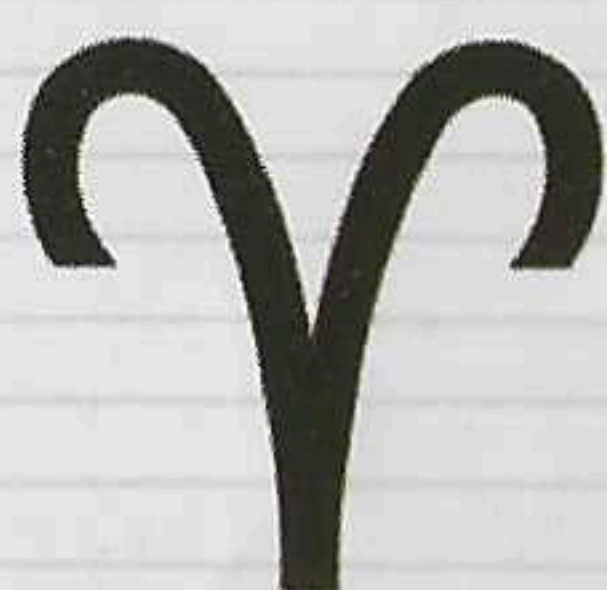
This is a good year to start a new business. Long term love commitments and adventures do not go hand-in-hand. Patience will be needed to overcome obstacles.

TAURUS



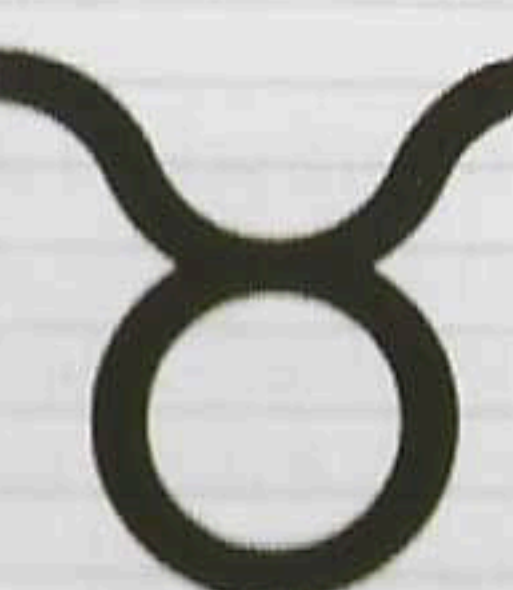
Being organized and methodical can make your task easier. Health will be good. Finances will be excellent and you might just get lucky in love!

ARIES



Career and business will bring some new changes. This might not be the right time to fall in love. Proper financial management is necessary. This is the right time to plan for your future.

TAURUS



Love and romance will be in the air. This is a good time to get committed. Overall health will be stable. Make the most of this year when it comes to career or business.

GEMINI



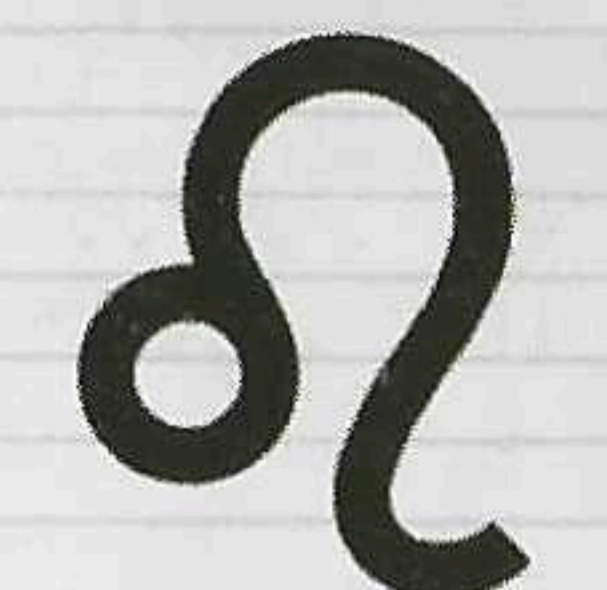
You feel as if you have the courage to take on the whole world. Important decisions will need to be made on the career and business front.

CANCER



Keep your eyes open, your soul mate might be just around the corner. Career and business prospects will improve, thanks to your networking skills. Do not get depressed by minor issues.

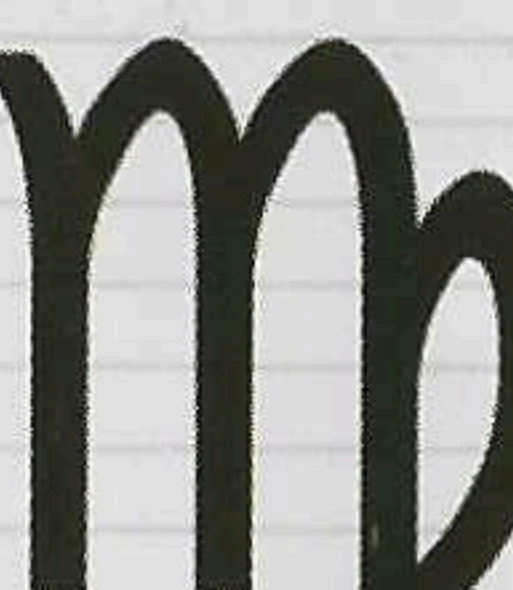
LEO



Lions have to be careful not to be surrounded by negativity in 2015.

Love life will be pleasant and happy. Emotions and feelings will need to be controlled. This is a good year to take a long vacation.

VIRGO



Take good care of your health. Romance might be on the cards. Do not be serious all the time about your work or relationships.

Let your hair down once in a while.

LIBRA



If you wish to be successful in both your personal and professional life, then you will have to learn to balance both.

SCORPIO



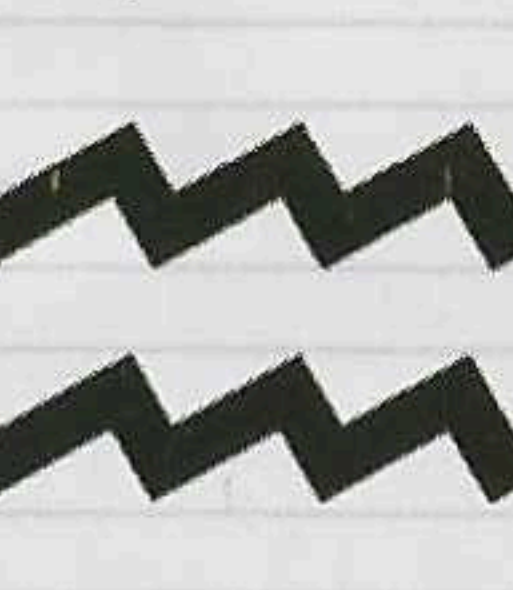
Analyze the situation well before making decisions. Being silent and secretive will not help in your career. Income will be good, so learn to save.

SAGITTARIUS



Take your job more seriously. This is a good time to take up new challenges. You will know in your heart when you meet your true love.

AQUARIUS



This is a good year to start a new business. Long term love commitments and adventures do not go hand-in-hand. Patience will be needed to overcome obstacles.

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS FROM FIREWORKSPH.COM

New Year is the time for celebration here in our country and tradition tells us to make lots and lots of noise on New Year's Eve. We have always used fireworks but many who do not know how to properly use it get injured. Most of them children.

We at Otaku Asia don't want any of you losing fingers and eyes just for a good time so we're going to share some fireworks safety tips from fireworksPH.com.

Do not buy generic fireworks with no labels identifying the manufacturer. Do not buy illegal and illegal sized fireworks.

Always read instructions carefully before using the fireworks.

Keep away from children. Do not have any kind of fireworks lying around. Do not eat. Children should be advised on the proper usage of fireworks. Strict adult supervision is required for minors to use fireworks.

Never drink alcoholic beverages before using fireworks.

Keep fireworks away from fire or other lighted flames or cigarettes.

Keep fireworks dry. Store in a cool and dry place. Do not store wet fireworks or attempt to dry wet fireworks.

Do not pick up unlit/unexploded fireworks.

Do not light while holding fireworks in hand specially firecrackers except for hand held pyrotechnics like sparklers.

Do not put any part of your body over the direct firing line of a firework, lit or unlit. Light fireworks at arms length and immediately retire to a safe distance.

When lighting fireworks, take into consideration wind direction and wind velocity. Do not fire if wind is strong.

Do not fire near flammable objects. Do not fire towards other people. Do not fire near your stock of fireworks. Your stock of fireworks should be at a safe distance away from your firing site and should be kept in a closed container where it won't be easily lit by wayward fireworks.

Close all doors and windows of your homes during New Year to keep wayward fireworks from entering your house and igniting flammable objects.

Always use fireworks as intended. Do not dissect fireworks. Do not assemble your own firework. Trying to get the powder might cause accidental ignition.

Always follow the required distances for spectators.

Do not fool around with fireworks. Never pull pranks or try scaring people with it.

Do not use candles to light fireworks. Use joss sticks, cigarettes or mosquito coils.

Wear eye protection devices like goggles or glasses. Wear cotton or denims. Do not wear synthetic clothing like polyester. Wear shoes and not slippers to protect the feet and wear long and not short pants.

Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby to put out fire immediately.

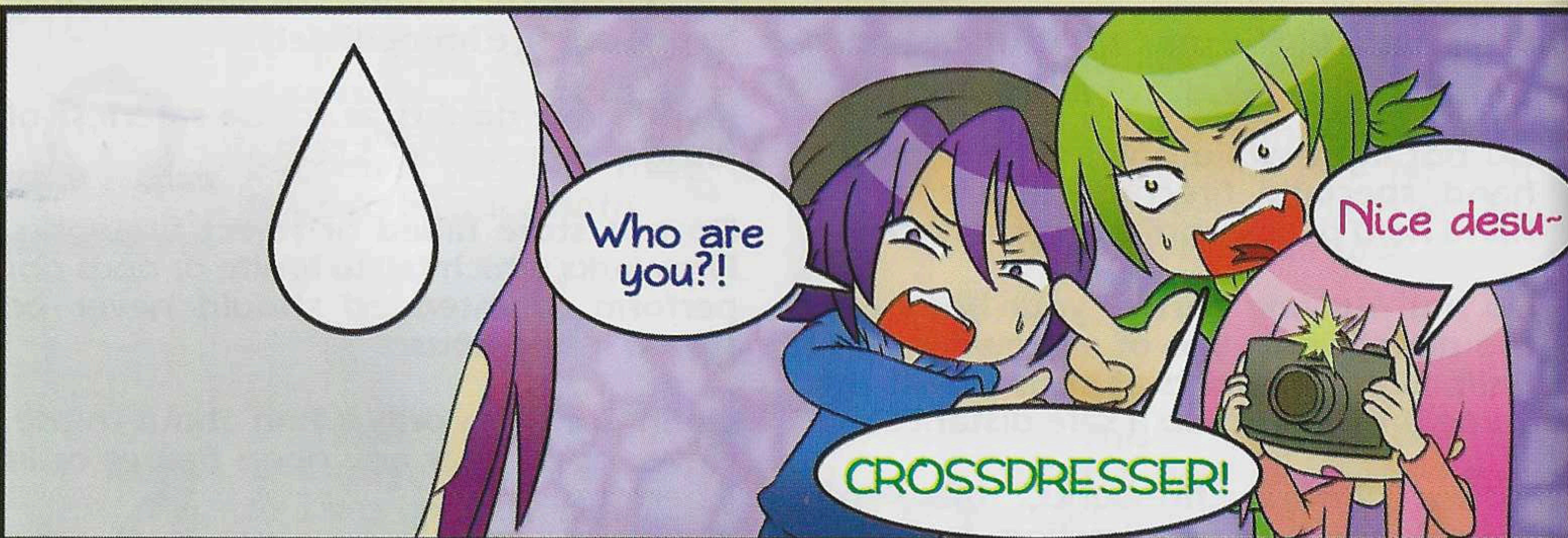
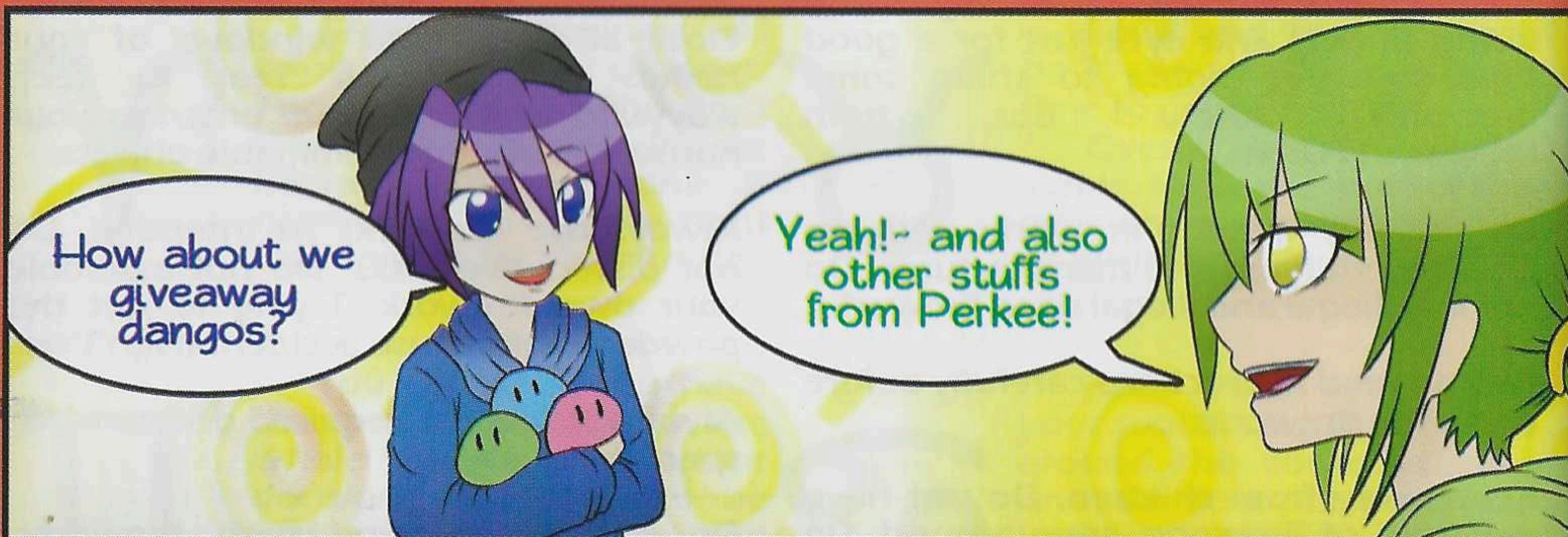
If you have doubts as to the safeness of firing the fireworks, STOP.

Do not store failed or reject fireworks. Fireworks which fail to ignite or does not perform as intended should never be stored in the house.

Open fireworks only when about to use. Never open near any open flames or lit cigarettes.

And have a safe new years, Otafans!

O-KUN TALES





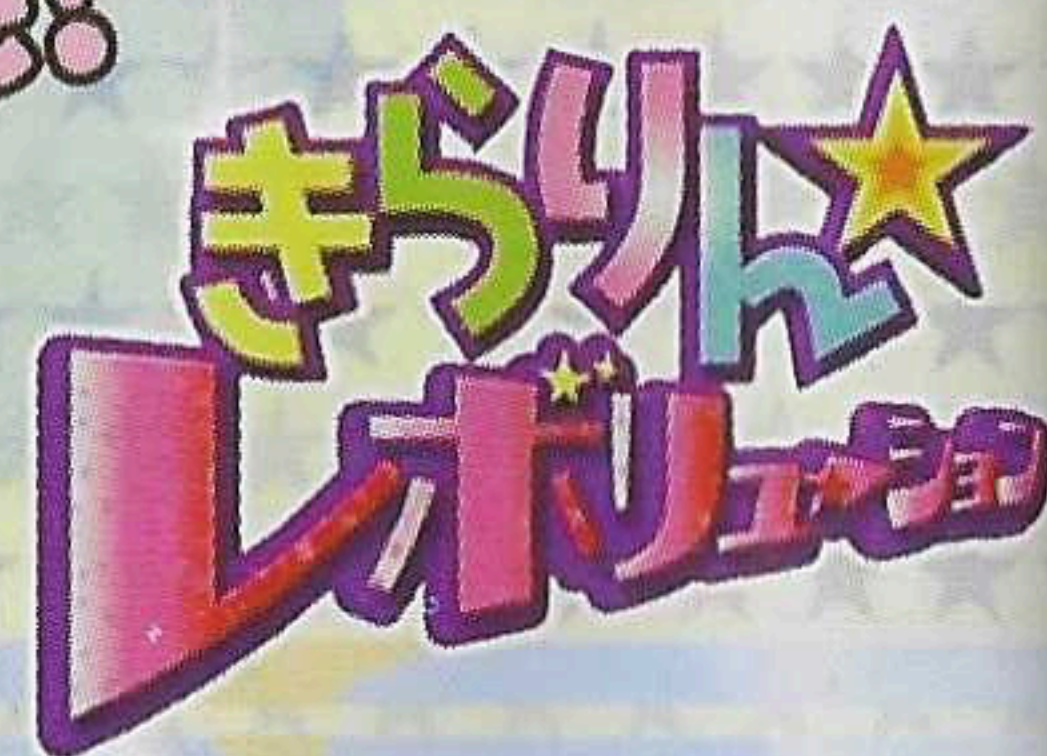


#THROWBACK



A Shining Star On-Stage!

by: lizac 3.0



This Christmas season, are you ready to party and eat your heart out? As always, prepare to gain some weight as it is the season of food and parties! Nonetheless, we all have that one friend who never gets fat no matter what or how much they eat, don't we? They could miraculously manage to have a thin body despite their lifestyle! Take the example of Kirari Tsukishima, who totally digs buffets and eat-all-you-can parties. A teenager who is obsessed with food, Kirari thinks that any other preoccupation is pretty insignificant if it isn't food.

When she saves a turtle from being stuck in a tree, she meets its owner named Seiji. The handsome boy gives her a ticket to a concert of a famous idol group called SHIPS. Not really interested in anything but food, she gives it a half-hearted try anyway and meets a stoic boy named Hiroto. To her surprise, Hiroto tears up her ticket right before the concert and tells her to stay away from Seiji because they are from different worlds. It turns out that the two boys she just met are members of SHIPS. Suddenly, a feeling in her heart starts to grow and creates sparks she has never felt before.

In a time where teenage music idols and entertainers are the trend, could Kirari outgrow her obsession towards food and pursue her sudden motivation as an idol? And what can love possibly do to change her mind?

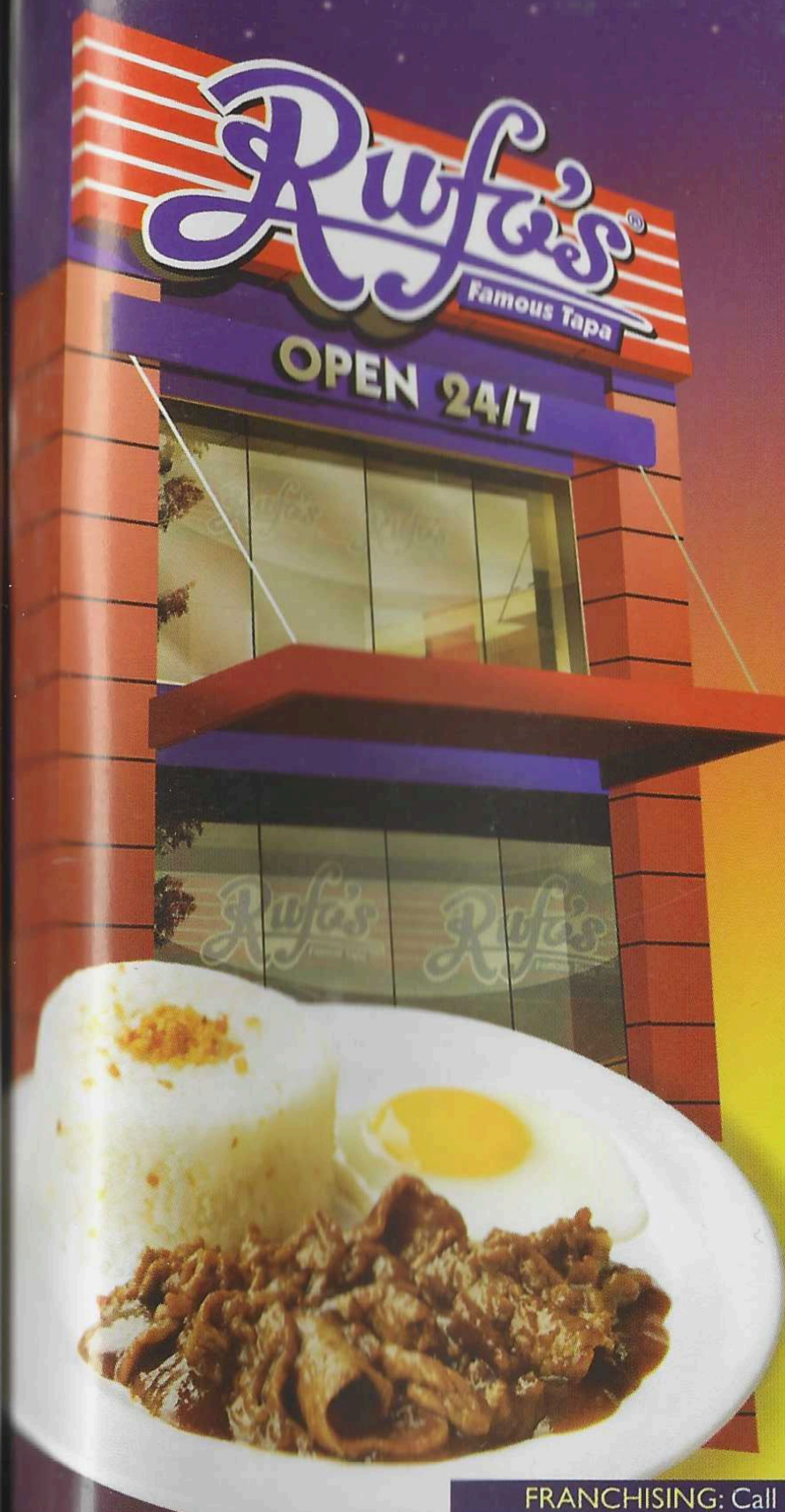
Kirarin Revolution is originally a Japanese Shoujo manga written by An Nakahara and published by Shogakukan. It has 14 volumes and ran from March 2004 to June 2009. Kirarin Revolution bagged the 2007 Shogakukan Manga

awards for the best children's manga, as apparent in its cute art style. It was later on produced as an anime in 2006 with whopping 153 episodes and having 23 minutes each. With such a number of episodes, cliffhangers will not even be an issue!

Come to think of it, Kirarin Revolution is not so much of a throwback when it comes to trends these days. Most youth are now into girl and boy idol groups alike. Just like other budding pop idols who have seniors they sincerely look up to, Kirari's inspiration roughly started from her admiration for Seiji. It has only improved later on because of her diligence to reach her goal as an idol. Even so, the cute and endearing art style would remind us of the good ol' days of shoujo anime such as Super Gals, UFO baby, and other notable throwback anime. Kirarin Revolution would definitely make anyone blurt out, "Kawaii!"

Have fun and be moved by each feel-good episode of Kirarin Revolution, the perfect show for an anime marathon party this season!

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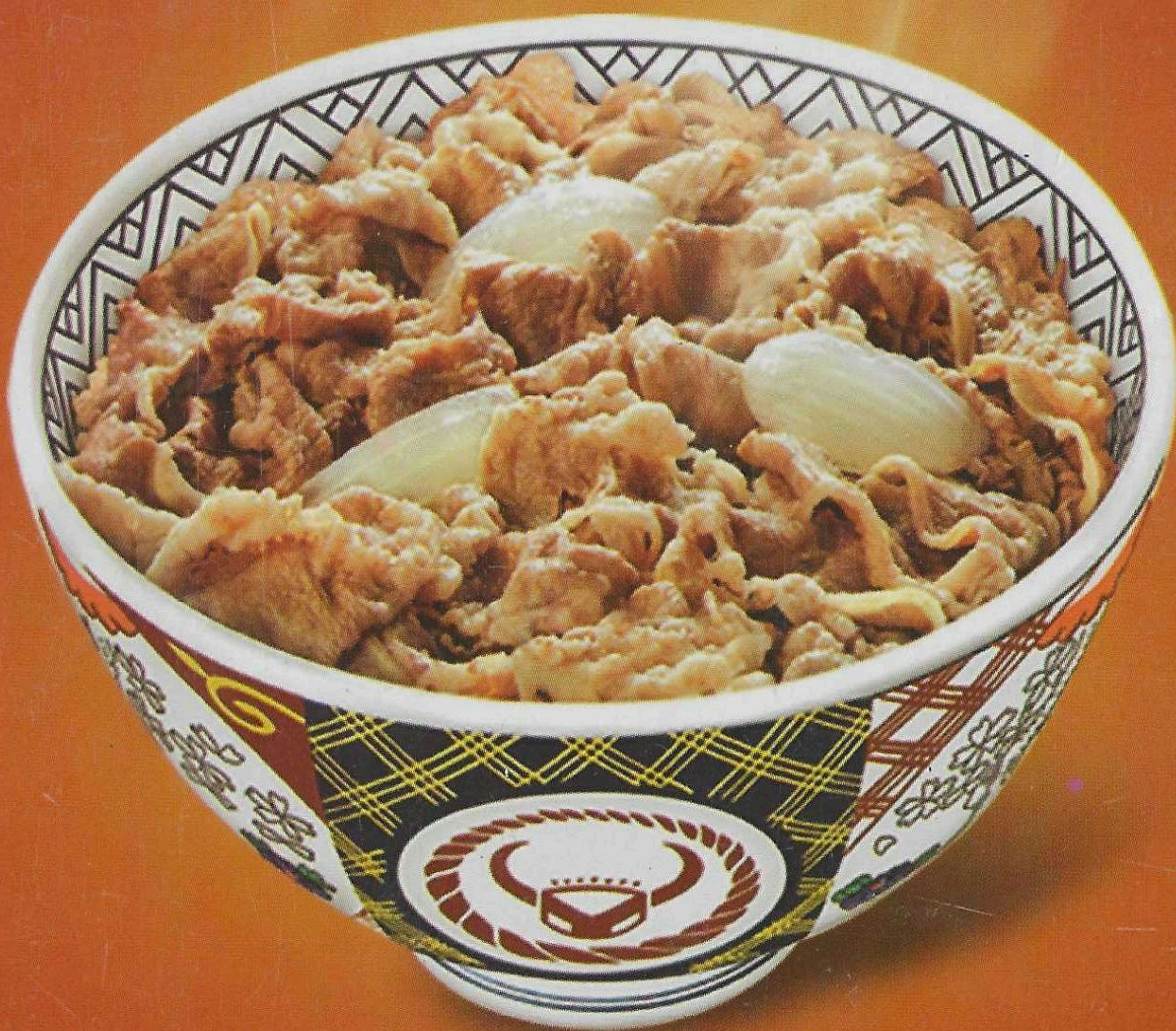
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